

Hafa Adai!

CNMI students win big in Chamorro language competition. » **PAGE 3**

Dynasty has until today: Continue talks or go to trial. » **PAGE 5**

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Oakland port shutdown delays shipment of products to CNMI

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A labor dispute between West Coast port managers and workers have left Saipan stores empty of bananas and eggs—after shipments were delayed for almost a week due to the shutdown of the Port of Oakland, in California, according to Triple J Five Star Wholesale, which distributes produce to stores across the island.

Saipan Tribune contacted island stores yesterday, after hearing reports from the public that there were no bananas, eggs, and other produce in their stores.

A Hannam Market employee said there had been a

See OAKLAND on Page 4

Use of Medicaid in private clinics to end this March

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

» **Medicaid office still waiting on CHCC response**

Private clinics on island have until the end of March to accept both children and adult patients under the CNMI Medicaid Office program—until the hospital decides whether Medicaid clients can still be treated at private clinics.

In an interview with CNMI Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan yesterday, she disclosed that all private clinics were given a three-month leeway to accept Medicaid applicants.

See MEDICAID on Page 4



Kannat Tabla road gets temporary fix

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Funds have already been identified to fix a road in San Vicente and three others in Kagman III but another part of Precinct V remains unpaved, caus-

ing many residents in Kannat Tabla to take to social media to voice their concerns.

San Vicente resident Ray Agulto noted that the condition of the road is bad for vehicles. "Like I said before,

See KANNAT on Page 4

Staff of the Department of Public Works and Saipan Mayor's Office clear the entrance into upper Kannat Tabla. This effort was coordinated between the two agencies and Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-MP) after a resident voiced concerns over the lack of care for Kannat Tabla roads.

JAYSON CAMACHO

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Marianas Tourism Education Council wraps up its school presentations.

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ENVIRONMENT

Let's Go employees collect several large bags of trash from Mt. Tapochau.

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LIFE & STYLE

A jury finds that "Blurred Lines" was copied from a Marvin Gaye song.

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Local

'Public water systems now consistently compliant'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Public water systems have been annually monitored and found compliant in the years since the early 2000s, when several water systems were reported to violate CNMI regulations, according to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Jose Kaipat, the safe drinking-water manager of the BECQ Division of Environmental Quality, told *Saipan Tribune* he is

confident that the water used in the CNMI for drinking and other human consumption is safe.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Pacific Islands Club, Commonwealth Health Corp., and LSG Sky Chef had been found to have violated water contaminant levels in the past, according to Kaipat.

"In the past, these public water systems were not aware of their situation," he said.

All the required monitoring were implemented and enforced beginning 1999 to 2000, Kaipat said.

He said all these systems were made aware of their situation and they had made changes to their water systems using the best available technology.

They are now in compliance, he said, but added that they are required to "continue annual monitoring to assure that health issues do not happen again."

In the early 2000s, CUC had violated maximum contaminant levels, or MCL, for total coliform rule, or TCR. Kaipat said CUC corrected the problem by

removing source contaminants from its system.

The violations had to do with how CUC calculated its compliance reports to DEQ, Kaipat said.

Some of the data for monthly compliance was not used by CUC, and when data was recalculated, CUC was shown to have violated regulations for an entire year.

CUC also violated organic and inorganic levels, for trichloroethylene, or TCE, in 2001. This was solved when CUC removed these

sources from their system.

PIC had violated the MCL for lead and copper amounts in their water, and was later found to have violating levels of TCE. Installing granular carbon filtration as part of their systems treatment solved this

problem. Adding chemicals that increased the water's pH level solved the lead exceedance.

Other systems had problems with lead and copper contaminants, like a health facility in CHC and LSG Sky Chef, Kaipat noted.

Cape Air flights up and running

Cape Air/United is back online with flights resuming after a week of cancellations.

Flights were cancelled due to reported technical issues.

"Cape Air/United Express has resumed normal operations from the morning of Saturday, March 7, 2015. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience we have caused during the flight cancellations," said the Cape Air public relations office in a statement yesterday.

Cape Air has only one aircraft operating its Guam-CNMI route.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that one of their AT42 aircraft, 836, was scheduled for maintenance in the first quarter of 2015. Of the two Cape Air planes, one is used as a "100 percent spare," according to Cape Air vice president of planning earlier.

Swaths of flights were cancelled during the middle months of last year largely due to technical issues. United flew accommodating flights during that time as well.

They were hired by United to service this route. (Dennis B. Chan)

TV show host puts spotlight on voting rights for US territories

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Late-night television show host John Oliver tackled voting rights for American citizens in U.S. territories during "Last Week Tonight," which aired Sunday on HBO.

With a heavy dose of humor and satire, Oliver took a swing at the U.S. government which, while calling territory residents as "American citizens," does not allow these "citizens" to vote.

U.S. territories include the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

He poked fun at how the government allows territories to have a delegate in Congress

who basically "can't do much."

Oliver cited the case of Guam and its importance to the U.S. military. About 27 percent of Guam's land mass is occupied by Navy and Air Forces, "and yet the residents of Guam have absolutely no say in general elections for their commander-in-chief," Oliver said.

What is harder to swallow, Oliver said, is that 1 in 8 residents in Guam are U.S. veterans, which is among the highest in U.S. states and territories. "Those veterans are shamefully under-served," he said.

But Guam's issues are relatively minor, compared to American Samoa, an "unincorporated territory."

Residents born in American Samoa are not even granted citizenship, although American Samoa has the highest rate of military enlistment. Residents of American Samoa are not "citizens" but are considered "nationals."

"This means that the 'American' in American Samoa is really just a title that doesn't mean anything, like 'People's Choice Awards' nominee or 'social media experts,' just devoid of meaning," Oliver said.

He poked fun at how the federal government uses a more than 100-year-old law to address the concerns of U.S. territories.

Lawsuits have actually been brought against the U.S. government regarding citizenship and voting rights.

"But the Obama administration has fought them by citing the 'Insular Cases' from earlier, which suggested that 'American Samoans, just like any all residents of the territories, can be given fewer rights because they belong to alien races,' differing from us in customs and modes of thought," Oliver quipped.

He said "this not an easy thing to do," but if "we figured out a lot more complicated things in the last 114 years, we should be able to work out a way to have the 4 million people who live there [U.S. territories] get adequately heard."



Chris Repuepai receives \$1,000.00 cash prize from the Northern Mariana Amateur Sports Association vice-president Kurt Barns. Repuepai did an early morning shopping for some knick-knacks at Zen Yu Market in Capitol Hill, when he decided to buy two Quick Cash Scratchies with his spare change. The lucky winner scratched the winning \$1,000.00 ticket. There are more \$1,000.00 prizes on offer. Good luck to all the players!



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CNMI students win big in Chamorro language competition

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

CNMI students were some of the top finishers in this week's Chamorro language competition at the University of Guam from March 9 to 10.

For the middle school sinangan/oratorical category, Chacha Oceanview student Breanna Camacho placed first. In second was a student from Guam. In third was Hopwood Junior High School's Terry Ann Terry.

The category's theme was "I Fino- Chamoru." It required students to write, memorize,

and speak on this theme.

For the poetry category, students recited a Chamoru language poem provided by the "Inachaigen Fino" Chamoru organizing committee.

In first place was Chacha Oceanview student Genzol Gonzales; a Guam student placed second; Hopwood Junior High School student Joshaly Flores placed third.

For the Tinaitai Koru/Choral Reading, the Tinian Elementary school team placed third.

For the Lalai/Chant category, Hopwood and Chacha Oceanview, placed second and

third, respectively.

For the proficiente (proficiency) category, students competed in reading comprehension, impromptu reading, and oral impromptu task completion rounds. Under this competition, Marianas High School students Balbina Concepcion and Kenaleen Litulomar placed second and third, respectively.

For the reading comprehension round, students read a selection and wrote answers to questions. For impromptu, they read aloud a brief passage or poem given to them 15 minutes before.

For the final impromptu round, a student is given a practical task using Chamoru language and behavior.

For the high school poetry recitation category, Marianas High School student Winfa Rabago placed second.

For the Kakanta na Palao'an/Female singer category, MHS student Riannalyn Manabat placed second.

For the male singing category, MHS student Jose Carreon placed first.

For the singing category, students had to wear their own Chamorro costume. Songs could be original or from an-

other artist, but had to be in Chamorro, not bilingual and not translated from an English song.

For the inentepeten kotturan egge'/dramatic cultural interpretation, MHS placed first. Under this category, students acted out an original skit based on this year's theme of "The Story of Latte."

For the kanta yan baila/song with dance category, MHS placed first. Under this category, a group of students sang and

danced to a song in the Chamorro language.

For the kantan chamorita/chamorita style of singing category, MHS placed first, beating John F. Kennedy High School from Guam. Under this category, a couple or group of students sang a back and forth between each other. It was a style of singing where a statement is made to be challenged, agreed upon, or rebuttal motivating a response.

Military top brass, lawmakers to meet on divert plan

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

The U.S. military top brass in the Pacific will hold a dialogue with lawmakers on Capital Hill on April 2 to discuss issues and concerns regarding the military's plan to build a divert—or alternative—airfield in the Commonwealth.

Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar is expected to attend the meeting, along with other military officials, according to Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who confirmed the dialogue.

Demapan earlier sent a letter of request to the military top brass seeking the dialogue.

The lawmaker, who chairs the House Committee on Foreign and Federal Affairs, said he sought to invite the military officials to shed more light on the

divert airfield plans.

In his letter, Demapan said it was agreed upon in the Covenant between the CNMI and the federal government that all future Department of Defense activities would take place on Tinian.

"It was the intent of our Covenant framers to do this so that Saipan would be allowed to realize commercial and economic development," Demapan said.

He said the Air Force "has now surprisingly given rise to a new proposal—a hybrid divert airfield plan that would be partially situated on Tinian and on Saipan."

Given that tourism is the CNMI's primary industry, "any disruption to commercial flights arriving on Saipan will have severe ramifications to the industry, and ultimately, the economy," he said.

The U.S. military last month outlined details of the proposed "hybrid" plan, which involves the construction of several military facilities on Saipan and Tinian.

In the proposed divert plan, there will be less structures on Saipan compared to Tinian, where a majority of military activities will take place, officials said.

Officials said the military cannot give a "100 percent guarantee" that the divert plan will not affect commercial flights, but stressed that as much as possible, there will be no "disruptions" of commercial flights, particularly on Saipan.

The divert airfield is supposed to provide an alternative landing site for Air Force planes in the event the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is not available due to war or calamity.

Mayor's Office prepping for spay, neuter clinic in May

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is preparing for a spay and neuter program that's scheduled to take off this May, according to Dog Control Program manager Spencer Marchadesch.

Due to the large dog population on the island, most of which are owned but free roaming, the Humane Society International, in collaboration with Animal Balance, will be conducting spay and neuter services on Saipan in May.

Marchadesch told *Saipan Tribune* they are preparing for the neuter services from May 18 to May 30. It will be held at the dog shelter in Lower Base.

Inga Gibson, HSI Hawaii senior state director and Pacific Islands policy coordinator, earlier noted that spay/neuter and zeuterin (nonsurgical vasectomy for dogs) services will be done in the last two weeks of May.

The spay/neuter services will include volunteer vets from Animal Balance. Zeuterin services will also be available for male dogs only. It is a non-surgical sterilization process for male dogs.

Animal Balance is a U.S.-based, non-profit organization dedicated to resolving the conflicts that exist between people, wildlife, and community

dogs and cats on island nations around the world.

They believe that the most ethical, logical, and effective solution to these conflicts is to gradually reduce the population of community dogs and cats through mass sterilization and to improve the physical condition of existing populations through medical treatment and vaccination, according to their website.

"We will be doing the clinic

Tinian has new resident department heads

Tinian has new resident department heads who will run eight government agencies on the island.

According to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, the new department heads include Juan Santos for the Department of Public Safety, Melissa Aquiningoc for the Department of Finance, Susan Cruz for the Department of Commerce, Joel Untalan for the Department of Public Works, Guillermo Borja for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Bonnie Borja for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Jay San Nicolas for the Department of Labor.

Mayor San Nicolas said he made the appointments, which were then transmitted to the chairman of the Tinian Municipal

at the shelter in Lower Base and maybe start a temporary clinic in Kagman," Marchadesch said.

He said they had a meeting regarding the preparation and presentation of the spay/neuter services.

So far, Saipan has only two veterinary services that are available: One from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources that is helping the Saipan Mayor's Office and the other is a private veterinary clinic.

Council and "they had 30 days to hear and decide on nomination."

"I am confident that they are going to do a fine job in their respective departments and their performance will be evaluated within three months from now. I will be working closely with the Tinian Municipal Council and they will also be given the performance review of the new resident department heads," San Nicolas said.

When asked why he chose them, he said it is because of their experience and qualifications.

"I based my decision on their experience and qualifications and I'd also like to thank the council for the confirmation of nominees, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, and people of Tinian for their support," he said. (*Jayson Camacho*)

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'War vs meth needs \$200K'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety needs at least \$200,000 to sustain its ongoing war against methamphetamine or "ice," according to DPS Commissioner James C. DeLeon Guerrero yesterday.



DeLeon Guerrero

"We do have a war against 'ice' that we need to be able

to robustly prosecute," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero disclosed that he communicated with the Legislature early this week, requesting at least \$200,000 in order to purchase equipment for gathering evidence and performing anti-drug operations.

"If you look at the 'ice' problem and then you look at what's happening with respect to the possibility of more weapons to be legalized here in the Commonwealth, and you have a rapidly developing casino industry, a rising tour-

ism [industry] along with the possibility of legalizing marijuana, you tell me what all of these we're at," DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said the department is hoping that the Legislature will also pay attention to DPS' 2016 budget submission because that will help them with

Political status bill gains momentum

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

A proposed bill to examine the political status of the CNMI in relation to the United States is moving forward, after the committee reviewing it decided to endorse the proposed bill to the House.

House Bill 19-02 is the latest iteration of an earlier bill, which calls for an examination of the CNMI's political union with the United States.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) last month introduced H.B. 19-02. She also supported an earlier version of the bill, which was vetoed by Gov. Eloy S. Inos last year.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-

what they need to do to prepare themselves for all these challenges going forward.

In January 2014, DeLeon Guerrero warned all law enforcers in the CNMI to prepare for a "long, expensive, and dangerous war" against "ice" traffickers.

A few days after the com-

Saipan), who heads the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said a panel meeting acted on HB 19-02.

According to Demapan, after deliberation on the bill, the committee determined "that HB 19-02 addresses the governor's veto of the previous version passed by the 18th Legislature."

He said his committee also recognized that the bill proposes a process for a political status commission to do its research and recommendation, as well as a plebiscite to present the commission's recommended options to the voters.

The lawmaker, however, said while a plebiscite "would express the desire of the people

missioner's warning, joint federal and local law enforcers arrested then-Police Officer 1 Victor Val B. Hocog for allegedly selling "ice" on Saipan.

A month later, joint federal and local law enforcers also arrested several "ice" traffickers, most of them Chinese nationals.

of the Commonwealth," any change in the Commonwealth's political relationship cannot take effect without the mutual consent of both the CNMI and the United States.

Demapan stressed that the intent of the proposed bill is to research different political structures and gauge the sentiment of the people.

"This would be a great opportunity for the people to be heard," Demapan said.

In July 2014, Inos vetoed Ogumoro's similar bill over constitutional issues and expressed doubts that the proposed commission can "unilaterally" alter the relationship between the U.S. and the CNMI.

Air Force, Navy training at FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 12-13, from 10am to 4:30pm and 6:30pm to 11:55pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the

training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

MEDICAID

From Page 1

Sablan said that Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña would have to send a letter to her and certify whether or not CHCC is willing to extend the period for Medicaid patients to avail of the services of private clinics.

"Usually when they need help from the private clinics, that is when we open up to the private clinics. It will expire at the end of the month for patients to go to private clinics, for both adults and children," she said.

"In the past it was the children [who were stopped] because the [hospital] had enough pediatricians, so they stopped the children and only this year they opened up for both. So I am going to have to request and see what is their status to see if they want to continue [availing

of] the help of private clinics," she added.

Muña earlier said that private clinics have been accepting both adults and children under the Medicaid program since January this year.

Last October, private clinics stopped accepting children with Medicaid due to CHCC having enough pediatricians. This is due to the Medicaid state plan that limits the participation of private providers.

The revised state plan, which has been approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 9, requires Medicaid patients to first seek treatment from CHCC and does not allow private clinics to provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries unless CHCC is not able to accommodate the patients.

The whole purpose of the state plan is to help the Medicaid program meet its financial goals because they had a cash flow issue in 2012.

Demapan bats for more affordable insurance premiums

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) has pre-filed House Bill 19-37 in an effort to help control the rising costs of insurance premiums. The measure also seeks to transfer the administration of the Government's Group Health and Life Insurance Programs to the Department of Finance.

"Government employees and retirees are struggling to keep up with rising health and life insurance costs," said Demapan. "Increasing the number of participants in the government's group insurance plans will minimize increases in premiums."

To help control premium costs, Demapan's bill would require all government employers—any political subdivision, branch, instrumentality, public corporation, or autonomous board or agency of the govern-

ment—to participate in the government's group health and life insurance plans.

According to the bill, the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Programs shall be the only health and life insurance benefits offered to the employees by the government. If enacted into law, employees of the government shall have 60 days to enroll into the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Program.

"This subsection does not require employees to participate in the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Programs," added Demapan. "Employee participation is optional subject to section 102 (b)."

Section 102(b) of Demapan's bill states, "Public funds may not be expended to pay for

health or life insurance benefits that are not provided as part of the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Programs, nor may public resources be used to withhold or transmit premiums for insurance policies or benefits that are not provided as part of the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Programs. This restriction does not apply to payroll deductions for Medicare."

As for the transfer of functions, Demapan noted that transition is timely for the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund in light of the establishment of the Settlement Fund. At this point, Demapan believes that the Department of Finance is a more appropriate authority to administer the government's Group Health and Life Insurance

program more efficiently.

Under this Act, the Secretary of Finance may contract with an insuring entity or insuring entities to provide the government's Group Health and Life Insurance Programs. The Secretary of Finance will also be tasked with establishing a contract procurement process for any contract entered into after the date of this Act.

"The procurement and contracting process is very important so that all insurance providers have the opportunity to compete and the government too would have the opportunity to select the best proposal offered," said Demapan. "The bottom line here is that we need to open up access to insurance coverage, but it must be affordable." (PR)

KANNAT

From Page 1

how many *kongressun* [congressman] have been elected into office and can't do anything about this situation?"

He did credit Rep. Larry DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) for taking measures to at least provide temporary relief for residents by having the entrance into upper Kannat Tabla cleared.

In an interview with DeLeon Guerrero yesterday, he said they are already addressing Agulto's concern but what they can do right now is just tree trimming, clearing of the road, and covering the potholes.

DeLeon Guerrero said they have covered several areas with three truckloads of recycled as-

phalt but there isn't any funding yet for Kannat Tabla roads to be properly paved.

"I am going to get together with my colleagues in the Legislature and try to push funding for this paving as well. There are other areas that need to be paved and so, in the meantime, these roads will be maintained periodically," he said.

When asked on who maintains the roads in Kannat Tabla, DeLeon Guerrero pointed to the Saipan Mayor's Office and USA Fanter Corp.

He said that USA Fanter is supposed to maintain the road because they hold the lease to the quarry.

According to the Saipan Mayor's Office, they have also addressed the concerns of Agulto and the upper Kannat Tabla

neighborhood, which is made up of about 40 houses.

"We all partnered up to get this project done today and we will continue tomorrow (March 12). We will continue the trimming of trees and a lot of trash that were seeping into the drainage. We are also clearing overgrown vegetation. We will continue that tomorrow and we're still collaborating with DPW and USA Fanter Corp.," said Joan Aquino, field operations director of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Aquino said the asphalt is completely out and they had to coordinate with the Commonwealth Ports Authority just to get some of the last load.

"Both the Mayor's Office and DPW's bucket truck are down so the tree trimming was done

by hand. We're working closely with DPW and Mayor David M. Apatang is serious about the beautification and fixing of the road structures here," she said.

Runoff problem

Aside from the unpaved road, the main problem is that upper Kannat Tabla sits on top of a hill where runoff is most likely to end up near the entrance into unpaved areas of the road, causing erosion and creating potholes.

Specifically, Aquino and DeLeon Guerrero pointed to an area near the entrance of Upper Kannat Tabla, where a wide hole is located and where the runoff ends up collecting trash and stacking up on one side of the road.

Aquino said they will address this issue with the Mayor's Office.

OAKLAND

From Page 1

shortage of eggs and bananas. Their eggs "just arrived last Sunday, Monday," he said. They are "still waiting" on bananas, he said.

Staff from Happy Market II in As Lito said their stock for eggs arrived yesterday, after a shortage last week. There were still "no bananas from the mainland," the staff said. One said they expect their shipment to arrive "by the 16th."

An employee from XO Market said there was a produce shortage last week, and "eggs came in this week, early Monday." But there are no bananas yet, she noted.

An I Mart employee also noted the same.

The affected products were only the imports. Local bananas and eggs continued to be available.

Strike delays shipments

In an interview yesterday, Triple J sales manager Esther Yamson pointed to the strike in the Port of Oakland that held back shipments for a week.

She wants to let customers know that shipments are now "on their way" and "in the water."

She said a shipment of banan-

as is set to arrive this Sunday, for market Wednesday.

As for eggs and other produce, these stocks are "back to normal," she said.

She noted a barge from San Francisco had undergone repair, she said.

Shipments were transferred to another barge and were delivered this week, she said.

She also noted that the barge's repair had affected shipments to Guam as well.

The *San Francisco Business Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle* reported last month that managers had shut down the Oakland port, after strife-filled months of labor negotiations between workers and manager came to a head.

A state union had set their monthly meeting during working hours on Feb. 19, *Business Times* reported. Workers chose to attend.

Times reported that the work stoppage froze the loading and unloading of containers on 12 vessels, and halted export and import activity.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shippers, have failed to agree to a new contract after their prior labor agreement expired last July, according to *Business Times*.

Dynasty has until today: Continue talks or go to trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has given the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino until today, Thursday, to decide

whether or not to move the trial date in the criminal case filed against the company.

At a status conference on Tuesday, Manglona ordered attorney Bruce Berline to meet and confer with his client, Hong Kong Entertainment (Over-

seas) Investments Ltd., and go through all the factors at play in the case.

The judge directed Berline to submit in court a memorialized decision regarding Hong Kong Entertainment's decision to move the trial or not.

Manglona said the April 7, 2015, trial date would remain on the calendar unless an order removes it.

Manglona said she would not set another status conference and that it would rely on Berline to convey to the court and the U.S. government the defendant's decision.

Assistant U.S. attorney Marivic David stated that it was still the status quo because the U.S. Department of Justice's Main Justice in Washington,

D.C. has yet to issue a final decision regarding the settlement deal that the U.S. Attorney's Office and Hong Kong Entertainment have agreed to in principle in order to dismiss the criminal case.

The parties agreed to dismiss the case against Hong Kong Entertainment in exchange for the company giving up \$3.02 million in favor of the U.S. government, in addition to other terms and conditions.

Berline said the parties had a telephone conference on Monday and that his client has yet to make a decision whether to continue with settlement talks or proceed with the trial.

David said the U.S. government did ask for a longer continuance on the trial date, taking

into account the multiple pending motions in the case.

David said there are several components that are being reviewed by different units in the Main Justice.

Berline suggested that the court give the parties a couple of days to come up with a stipulation, and if it is not favorable, then the court can have parties return to court for a hearing.

At a status conference last Feb. 6, David informed the court that the U.S. government had advised Tinian Dynasty's lawyer that there has been no final decision yet from Main Justice about the approval of the settlement deal.

The trial was supposed to start last Feb. 9, but the judge postponed it to April 7 at the

parties' request.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton, counsel for the U.S. government, told the court last Jan. 30 that although they have agreed in principle to the settlement, they are awaiting DOJ's final approval of the civil forfeiture amount.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment: one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment has also a notice of forfeiture.

DPS chief: Issues surrounding evidence facility now resolved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has already addressed the negative issues, including mis-handling of evidence, at its evidence facility, according to DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

He said DPS has been working extensively with the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General to resolve the matter.

"We have been very diligent in terms of addressing the concerns or findings that have been brought on by the OPA," he said.

For the most part, a lot of the negative issues that resulted in the dismissal of some criminal cases have been addressed, he said.

In October 2013, then-attorney general Joey P. San Nicolas disclosed that the AG's Investigation Unit and DPS were jointly looking into the mis-handling of evidence in a trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" case.

A bag that contained "ice" was substituted with a fake substance, leading to the dismissal of the charges in October 2013 against suspected "ice" suppliers Le Xiang Chen and Yuhua Wang.

In dismissing the case, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho urged San Nicolas and Deleon Guerrero to look into this incident.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed yesterday that they have updated all of the inventories at the evidence facility and disposed

of items that needed to be removed from the facility through the OAG.

He said the evidence facility "is now pretty much up to par at this point" in terms of integrity.

A couple of weeks ago, Deleon Guerrero visited the Guam Police Department and looked at their evidence facility as well as their crime lab.

One of the issues discussed in his visit was the possibility for GPD to send one of their personnel to Saipan to provide training for the evidence custodian as well as crime scene investigators.

"I'm pleased to say that they were quite receptive and accommodating to our request," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said one of two steps that they are looking at right now is to send for some GPD personnel to Saipan to provide this training for crime scene investigators.

He said DPS will also be sending a team of crime scene investigators to GPD to be placed in an on-the-job training program.

The DPS legal counsel had already drafted a disposal policy with respect to evidence. The draft policy is now being circulated to DPS administration and the chief prosecutor for review.

"I'm hopeful that over the next 90 days or so, we should be able to resolve all of the pending issues with respect to policy at the evidence facility here in DPS," he said.

He believes that DPS has pretty much cleared the "mess" at the evidence facility.

Bill seeks to prevent tattoo parlors from serving minors

A proposed bill seeks to prevent tattoo parlors in the Commonwealth from serving minors without the written consent or presence of a parent or guardian.

According to Senate Bill 19-25, introduced by Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), while tattooing is a form of art and getting one is a way for some to express themselves, "minors under the age of 18 may not be mature enough to make such a decision."

The proposed bill also notes that a minor's future career may be affected by tattoos if they join the U.S. military.

"According to Army Regulation 670-1, which details grooming and appearance stan-

dards for all soldiers while in uniform, new recruits cannot have more than four tattoos below the elbow or knee."

Having tattoos on the neck, face, head, hands, wrist, and fingers are also prohibited, as well as tattoos that are clustered together to appear as one large tattoo, the proposed bill said.

Aside from this, minors getting tattoos may also be left with permanent scars and potentially be exposed to infectious diseases.

The proposed bill seeks to punish a person convicted of unlawfully tattooing a minor with imprisonment of not more than one year or a fine of \$1,000. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

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Woman in visa fraud case pleads guilty

A woman whose pretrial release was earlier revoked for failing to appear at a hearing and drug testing has pleaded guilty to visa fraud.

At a change of plea hearing on Monday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona accepted Evengelyn Eudora Conrad Jones' guilty plea and set the sentencing for June 12, 2015, at 9am.

Manglona unsealed the plea agreement and vacated the jury trial set for Monday, March 16.

Jones, 33, was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Court-appointed attorney David Banes served as counsel for Jones. Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorring appeared for the U.S. government.

Visa fraud carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee.

Under the plea deal, Jones agreed to forfeit to the U.S. government her interest to \$540, representing the proceeds she obtained from the commission of the offense.

The U.S. government agreed not to prosecute Jones for her failure to appear at the hearing.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Jones stated in a Form I-130 that she submitted to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service on Sept. 16, 2010, that an individual with the initials K.Y.O. was her "husband/wife"—a representation that she knew was false because she had divorced K.Y.O. in 2006.

Jones' representation had a natural tendency to influence, or was capable of influencing, the decisions or activities of USCIS, according to the plea deal.

Form I-130 refers to a U.S. citizen's petition for an alien relative.

Last month, Manglona revoked Jones' pretrial release.

Manglona found that Jones' series of failures to appear—for drug testing, for substance abuse treatment, and for court—in conjunction with the rebuttable presumption established by the U.S. government, show by a preponderance of the evidence that no combination of conditions can assure Jones's appearance.

NMC Annual Health Fair on April 11

To increase awareness about healthy lifestyle habits and practices, the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club is inviting all community members to the 6th Annual Health Fair on April 11, 2015, a Saturday, from 8am to 1pm at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The health fair is supported with the assistance of the College Access Challenge Grant, Area Health Education Center, and other NMC and community volunteers.

Health fair activities will run from 8am to 1pm, but will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 7am. The first 20 participants who finish the 5K Walk will also receive T-shirt prizes. Entrance to the health fair and the 5K Walk is free for all community members.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be games and information booths, screenings for blood pressure, height and weight, and

Manglona also determined that the court cannot rely on Jones to abide by any conditions that could be set.

U.S. Deputy Marshal Don Hall served Jones with an arrest warrant last Jan. 29. Manglona issued the arrest warrant after Jones failed to show up at the revocation hearing.

Jones was first arrested on an indictment charging her with one count of visa fraud and

blood glucose. There will also be various presentations and fitness classes led by Benjamin Jones and Zumba exercises led by the Uncle Ben's Music and Dance Studio. The American Red Cross will also demonstrate CPR techniques, and the event will also feature a health panel composed of health professionals.

Participants may also purchase \$1 raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes like an 18-hole round of golf for two from Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, gift certificates from Subway and other companies. Funds raised will be donated to the NMC's Nursing Club to purchase lancets and other supplies used for community service projects.

"Our goal for this health fair is to increase awareness and the importance of living a healthier lifestyle by eating the right types of food and becoming more physically active," said NMC Nursing Club president Maria Atrero. "This is also a wonderful opportunity to expose yourself and your children to the different health resources available in the CNMI."

For additional information about the Health Fair, contact NMC Nursing Club 237-6741/6743 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

Water outage related to Agag Waterline Project

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is alerting all customers in the areas served by the Capital Hill water distribution system—As Teo, Capitol Hill, Talafofo, Isa Drive, and Papago—that a portion of the system will be taken out of service for approximately five hours on Monday, March 16, from 8am to approximately 1pm.

Work on the Water Task Force waterline replacement project in the As Teo area requires that a portion of the Agag water distribution system be taken out of service for up to five hours.

"We would encourage those that have water tanks and cisterns to take any needed steps to store water before the outage," said the corporation in a statement.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project. Direct inquiries to the CUC Water Division at 322-5030/31. (CUC)

was released last Nov. 24 on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

U.S. Probation officer Gregory Arriola then filed a petition for revocation of her pre-trial release after she failed to appear for random drug tests on Dec. 16, 18, 20, and 30, 2014.

At the Jan. 20 revocation

hearing, Jones did not show up in court. This prompted Manglona to order her arrest.

At the revocation hearing last Feb. 3, Jones, through counsel Banes, admitted to the violations alleged in the petition to revoke the pretrial release. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Deadline extended to sign up for Charter Day competitions

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee has extended the deadline for those interested in participating in the Charter Day competitions: Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands, and Miss Charter Day. The new deadline to submit registration forms has been extended to Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

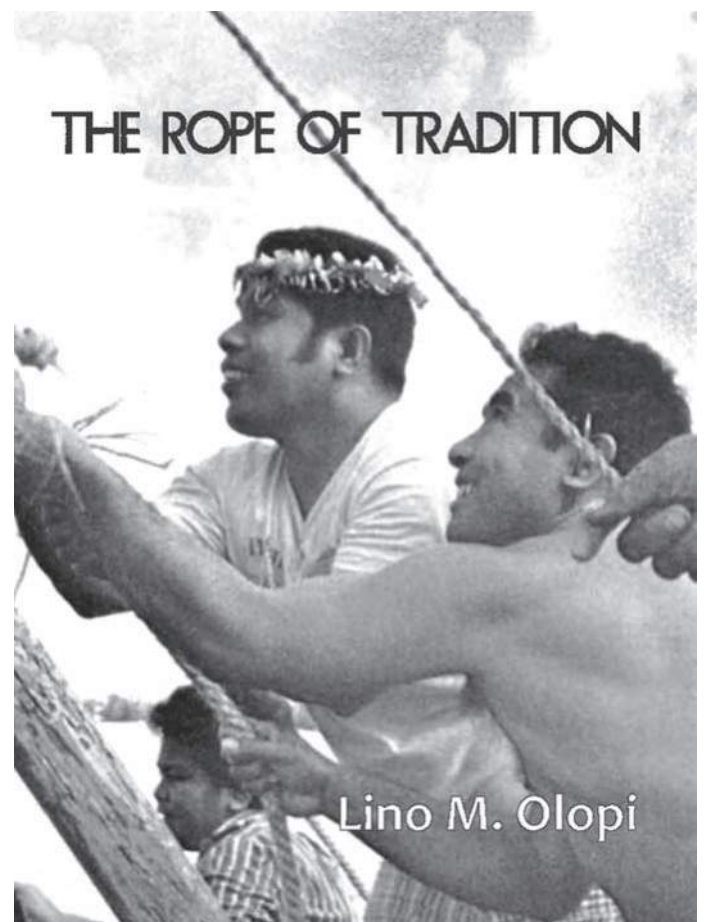
The Charter Day celebration will be held on Friday, March 20, 2015, at the NMC field from 4pm to 10pm. The event will showcase various programs, celebrate employee and student achievement, and feature great entertainment. Delicious food, drinks, and

games will also be offered for sale by numerous vendors.

Auditions for the Marianas Idol will begin at 6pm and the Battle of the Bands at 7pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. The auditions will be held in the Student Center, Building J at the As Terlaje campus.

Registration forms for the competitions may be picked up at the NMC Student Center (Building J), or can be downloaded at www.marianas.edu. For additional information, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 6790 or email queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. (NMC)

Olopai's book to be used by UCLA class



Lino M. Olopai

A book by cultural preservationist Lino M. Olopai will be required reading for a class of approximately 220 students at the University of California, Los Angeles this spring.

Olopai's book, *The Rope of Tradition: Reflections of a Saipan Carolinian*, chronicles the author's quest to document and better understand his rich cultural heritage and to seek a balance between traditional life and the demands of the modern world.

The three-month class, AAS 10: Asian American and Pacific Islander History, will be taught by UCLA associate professor Dr. Keith L. Camacho.

According to Camacho, students will read Olopai's book in preparation for a public forum on indigenous navigation that will be held in Los Angeles on April 20.

Featured speakers at the forum include Cindi Alvitre of the

Tongva Ti'at Society, Marcus Lopez of the Chumash Maritime Society, and Mario Borja of Sakman Chamorro. The Tongva and Chumash are American Indian communities from California.

Borja, originally from Saipan, is currently training a crew who will undertake a long-distance voyage in a replica Chamorro sailing canoe known traditionally as "sakman."

Olopai's 425-page book was published in 2005 by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council under the Council's "Micronesian Authors Initiative." This initiative gives priority to publishing the literary works of indigenous authors.

The book is available for purchase at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. For more information call council staff at 235-4785. (*NMI Humanities Council*)

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SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Request for Proposals
RFP15-JUDICIARY-01
Print Edition of the 2015 Commonwealth Code

The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission ("LRC") is soliciting sealed proposals for a print edition of the Commonwealth Code. The Code will contain statutes of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, current through June 30, 2015.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **March 5, 2015**, at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on **March 31, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission Offices. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Michael Stanker, Executive Director, via email: michael.stanker@justice.gov.mp and shall only be answered at the mandatory preproposal meeting.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP15-JUDICIARY-01** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **April 3, 2015, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, April 3, 2015**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 3, 2015**, AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **April 10, 2015, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Michael A. Stanker
Executive Director, LRC

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Procurement Officer

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San Nicolas lauds revitalization of streetlights

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, along with Tinian Delegation chair Sen. Francisco M. Borja and 15th Tinian Municipal Council chair Raynaldo M. Cing, commended on March 6, 2015, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Tinian for their hard effort in working together in revitalizing the streetlights of Tinian.

In particular, San Nicolas praised Tinian CUC board member Eric C. San Nicolas, Tinian Commonwealth Utilities Corp. deputy director Evelyn B. Manglona and her staff, Telesource CNMI Inc., and Department of Public Works director Joal Untalan.

San Nicolas said this is only the beginning toward increasing the number of functioning streetlights on the island for safety and tourism related purposes. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: CUC lineman Felipe Pilayan, lineman Arnel Olalia, lineman supervisor Mario Enriquez from Telesource CNMI, Inc., Sen. Francisco M. Borja, Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, Tinian CUC deputy director Evelyn B. Manglona, CUC senior trades technician Steve K. Cabrera, 15th Tinian Municipal Council chair Raynaldo M. Cing, DPW director Joal Untalan, CUC senior trades technician Eugene San Nicolas, and Tinian CUC board member Eric C. San Nicolas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PHI again supports the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross. For more than 15 years PHI has provided financial and in-kind support to the local Chapter. This year they presented \$700 in cash and in-kind store gift certificates. Under the leadership of Bruce Cohen, PHI has been a major supporter of not only the Red Cross but many other civic and community focused organizations. Photo shows, from left, Claudine Atalig, Bruce Cohen, John Hirsh, and Mel Borja.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WALKATHON DONORS

Peter Stewien, center, general manager of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. dba Club C, presents a check for \$500 to American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, left, and Red Cross board chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho in support of the upcoming Red Cross Walkathon. Stewien said his ownership team feels strongly about supporting local community focused organizations and are very pleased to be supporting the Red Cross.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BECQ office closure

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will be closed on Friday, March 13, 2015, due to a full-day employee professional development training. Normal operations will resume on Monday, March 16, 2015. If you have an emergency or require immediate assistance, call 664-8500 for DEQ and 664-8300 for DCRM. **(BECQ)**

Deadline to order graduation accessories

This is to inform all parents of

seniors (12th grade) at Marianas High School that the last day to place an order for graduation accessories and partial payment is March 23, 2015. Please be advised that orders will not be accepted after the deadline. Graduation accessories are purchased off island. Please call 237-3206/3205 for more information. **(MHS)**

CCA board meeting on March 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular

meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org or ccamarianas@gmail.com.

The Survivor's and Caregiver's Support Group Meeting will be held on March 19, 2015, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. **(PR)**



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to my brother, Bernardo C. Montano, who is celebrating his 45th birthday on March 15, 2015! I wish you good health and good wealth! Greetings come from Jane and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 23rd birthday to our one and only handsome, funny, and kind brother, Justin Fritz Babauta! We are so proud of you! With love you! Greetings come from your four fabulous sisters!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 6th birthday to my brother BJ! Hope you'll have the best day of your life. May God bless you with many years to come. Greetings come from Mom, Rolani, Ankie Boy, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the San Roque School beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

NMC to offer limited number of summer classes

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College will offer a limited number of classes this summer.

Saipan Tribune had noted in the college’s roundtable with lawmakers last week that the college had alluded to a lack of plans for summer classes in a PowerPoint presentation.

Asked to clarify this, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen said yesterday that the college will offer a limited number of classes that prioritize develop-

mental and program specific courses in nursing, business, and education. She said a “limited budget should not drive what we have set out as our mission” to edu-

cate the people of the CNMI. The college plans to assist students in availing of courses at other institutions through online instruction if specific courses are not offered at NMC over the summer months.

“Although we are not able to offer the broad array of classes that we have during the fall and spring semesters, there will be a limited number of classes to help students complete their individual degree plans in a timely manner,” Merfalen said.

Right now, the college is preparing a schedule of classes that will be offered during summer. The schedule will be available next month.

Merfalen stated that to run a summer course, the college has set minimum enrollment figures for each class to be able to recoup the expenses that include instructor salaries and overhead like instructional materials, utilities, and other charges.

“We’ll be looking at offering classes that are high in demand and those that are critically needed for the timely completion of individual degree plans,” she said.

The college’s full-time student enrollment for the current semester (spring 2015) is at 1,166. This is approximately a 5-percent increase over last year (spring 2014).



Saipan Community School's eight qualifiers in the recent National Junior Forensic League regional competition pose with one of their coaches, Ashley Sikayun, after being honored by the school last Friday at SCS' chapel.

SCS lauds NJSDA winners

Saipan Community School last Friday lauded students who excelled in the recent National Junior Speech and Debate Association (formerly National Junior Forensic League) regional competition. Two seventh graders led the winners’ list as Esther Park won first place in Story Tell-

ing and fourth place in Prose, while classmate Kate Ishida won first place in Original Oratory, second place in Humorous Interpretation, and third place in Prose. A pair of sixth graders, Maxine Rabago and Shaina Lee, meanwhile, finished third place in Duo Interpretation. Lee also

bagged fifth place in Poetry, while their classmate, James Park, came in fourth place in both Poetry and Humorous Interpretation. A total of eight students from SCS qualified for the NJSDA regional competition held last Feb. 28 at the Mt. Carmel School campus.

Seventh graders Sunny Wu, Ye Lee, and Jeffrey Seo also made it to the finals of the regionals. The school’s NJSDA team is coached by sisters Ashley and O’ronia Sikayun. Park and Ishida will now compete in the National Junior Speech and Debate Association National Competition set from June 16 to 19, 2015, in Dallas, Texas. (Saipan Tribune)

Notice Of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of February 12, 2015 minutes
 - 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. Public Hearings**
 - 1. **Conditional Use Application #2014-4550:** King’s International Corporation is proposing to operate dormitories with classrooms and office spaces. This use is classified as “Institutional Residential” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot 1821-R2 in Quartermaster, Chalan Pale Arnold, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
 - 2. **Conditional Use Application #2015-0934:** Yong Fang Corporation is proposing to operate ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) for outdoor activities. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement Intensive and will be utilizing lot TR 21914-R1 to store the vehicles and perform outdoor activities within the Mt. Tapochao areas. These areas are zoned as Rural.
 - 3. **Conditional Use Application #2015-0937:** Let’s Go Tour company is proposing to operate ATVs (Utility Vehicles) for tours on public roads as well as outdoor activities. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement Intensive and will be utilizing an existing warehouse on part of Lot #025 E 01 to store the vehicles. From this start point in Lower Base, the applicant proposes various routes to reach the end/ turning points which include Bamboo Forest and Sabana in Mt. Tapochao areas, Jeffrey’s Beach in Talofofo, Obyan Beach, Naftan Point, Laolao Bay, or Forbidden Island.
- C. Communications/Reports**
- D. Old Business**
 - 1. None
- E. New Business**
 - 1. Office Operations Report (Permit and Enforcement)
- F. Executive (Closed) Session.**
- G. Miscellaneous:** Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for King’s International Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. King’s International Corporation is proposing to operate dormitories with classrooms and office spaces. This use is classified as “Institutional Residential” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot 1821-R2 in Quartermaster, Chalan Pale Arnold, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: March 19, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 18, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Let’s Go Tour Company

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Let’s Go Tour company is proposing to operate ATVs (Utility Vehicles) for tours on public roads as well as outdoor activities. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement Intensive and will be utilizing an existing warehouse on part of Lot #025 E 01 to store the vehicles. From this start point in Lower Base, the applicant proposes various routes to reach the end/ turning points which include Bamboo Forest and Sabana in Mt. Tapochao areas, Jeffrey’s Beach in Talofofo, Obyan Beach, Naftan Point, Laolao Bay, or Forbidden Island.

Date: March 19, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 18, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Yong Fang Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Yong Fang Corporation is proposing to operate ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) for outdoor activities. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement Intensive and will be utilizing lot TR 21914-R1 to store the vehicles and perform outdoor activities within the Mt. Tapochao areas. These areas are zoned as Rural.

Date: March 19, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, March 18, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Deadlines

By JEANNE RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Most people are familiar with statutes of limitations, which set time limits for bringing a civil action in court. See 7 C.M.C. § 2501 *et seq.* For example, a civil action for assault and battery must be commenced within two years after the cause of action accrues. An exception to this rule is that “[i]f the person entitled to a cause of action is a minor or is insane or is imprisoned when the cause of action first accrues, the action may be commenced with the time limits in [Chapter 5 of Title 7 of the Commonwealth Code] after the disability is removed.” 7 C.M.C. § 2506.

It is important to be aware of deadlines when one is applying for or being denied government benefits.

In response to an application for vocational rehabilitation services, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is required to determine eligibility “within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 60 calendar days.” *OVR Program Services Policy and Procedures Manual, Section 8.* And “[a]fter determination of eligibility, Counselor shall develop an individualized plan for employment (IPE) within 60 work days.” *OVR Program Services Policy and Procedure Manual, Section 16.*

Time limits also apply in the event that an applicant disputes or is aggrieved by a decision of OVR. An applicant may request a fair hearing in writing not later than 60 calendar days after receiving notice of the disputed determination. Within 30 days of the disputed determination, an applicant may request an informal Alternative Dispute Resolution. *OVR Program Services Policy and Procedures Manual, Section 26.*

The applicant may also contact the Client Assistance Program at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. for assistance.

Similar time limits apply when requesting the Public School System for an individual initial evaluation before the provision of special education and related services for a child with a disability. *NMIAC 60-50-300.301* (60 days to complete initial evaluation); *NMIAC 60-50-300.323* (30 days after determination of eligibility to meet to develop an IEP).

Particularly critical for applicants of government benefits are the time limits for appealing a denial or termination of benefits. Carefully read any notice that an application for benefits has been denied or that benefits are being terminated. Take notice of the time limits for appealing the decision in order to avoid the loss of your claim. Generally a request for reconsideration of a denial of Social Security Disability Insurance, SSDI, or Supplemental Security Income, SSI, must be filed within 60 days. However, when a benefit is being terminated, a special time limit of 10 days may apply to allow the continuation of benefits pending appeal. On the other hand, a time limit of 30 days is generally applicable for an adverse decision of the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund.

If you need assistance, contact NMPASI at (670)

See DEADLINE on Next Page



Welcome home

It was the tsunami of warm and fresh Saipan air that came as a welcome assault on my lungs descending from one of Korea's airlines. This was in stark contrast to what has become a daily condition in the northeast of China. Shenyang in *Dung Bei* (old Manchuria to the elders) where I scribble my pedagogical pencils has the infamous reputation of being like smoggy Beijing.

The coal-fired (misnamed *mei* since that also means “pretty girl”) power plants that dot the landscape emits all the carbon laced particles that hover up to 10,000 feet above the ground before hitting the blue skies, so it was a delight to finally get out of the haze and smog and see the uncluttered portion of our biosphere.

Psychologists say that the weather often determines an individual's outlook. It seems true of social creatures' behavior as well. It is no surprise that in tropical weather, folks tend to be “happy go-lucky” ones, while in Winnipeg's streets on cold days, the common rush hour look is dour-and-sour. I say the same of any cold city in any part of the world.

But the cold and the heat are not really what determine the feeling and reality of being “welcomed home.” My enlightened theologically-inclined friends say that the word “god” is really just a pious term for “reality” and living the way life is makes one godly. While I do not use the same metaphor, I share the same sentiment. Being welcomed home is reality saying that I can trust what I have on my hands and decide to live it without fear.

Deciding to give your whole to the reality you have, of full self-expenditure even unto death on behalf of the other, is what the “Christ” role is all about and the holy spirit is sheer freedom to celebrate and intentionally own up to that expenditure, in the full ambiguity of its mystery and depth as one's own. No mumbo-jumbo here. Just plain reality.

The image of the earthrise in 1968 welcomed me home to Earth. Deciding on the corporate vision and mission of a group of intentional folks in the State of Maharashtra in India in 1978 made me understand that “doing it” is not subject to the psychological ennui of achievement and result. “Just do it” is more than a popular footwear brand's slogan. My “it” was expenditure as the way life is, but deciding to do so on behalf of all is the free choice I added to reality!

So, being welcomed home in the Marianas was not just the pleasant surroundings of the lagoon, or the nice walk up and down the pathway at sunset, the stroll along Paseo de Marianas when it is empty at noon, or when the tourists in droves elbow it with the locals at night. Being welcomed into anything is really a matter of choice, not dependent on externals.

I must concede that the externals this week aligned to the best formation of my stars. Running into Uncle Dave outside a favored buffet at Fiesta where the late JP of ST used to meet for lunch

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



was a pleasant surprise. He did not immediately recognize who I was since we had limited contact so I reminded him that I wrote a column for his company's paper. Then his face beamed with the light of recognition and he was gracious and diplomatic enough to say that he read some of my writings. Later at his office, he autographed a copy of his book.

Then I ran into the brother of a former SVES student. He serves tables at a tourist joint in Garapan. He brought over to our table his younger brother who I recognized immediately by name and looks. My SVES student will make it past NMC academic requirements this semester to head out to US' Washington State for further schooling. Nothing beats that kind of news from a former student to a former teacher, especially since he was polite enough to mention that, on occasion, he read my column as well.

It was not, of course, all hunky dory. A familiar face smiled at me with a “long time no see” handshake at Fiesta's beach. I knew him well previously but my bewildered look made him mention his SpEd teacher wife Anna to jog my memory and the puzzle pieces fell into place.

With a tooth bridge broken I had to wait for one of Seventh-day Adventist's dental chairs. Then I remembered Ryan Bell, an ex-Seventh-day Adventist pastor who went godless a year, found called “god” no longer necessary in his life, nor as a viable explanation of the way life is. “I'd just say that the existence of God seems like an extra layer of complexity that isn't necessary,” he was quoted. There are many of us who grew up with the god-metaphor who do not forsake the category of “spirit” but are sympathetic to Bell's decision that the “world makes more sense as it is without postulating a divine being who is somehow in charge of things.”

So, where do I get off feeling that I am welcomed home, without postulating a providential power that bestows me and everyone else the power to operate in it? *Sans* theist metaphor, the breeze by the lagoon is a profound welcome, and to battered Earth that claimed my loyalty since the '68 earthrise image, I am very grateful.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nessesidat Kabisiyu

Te'ug yan didog na pinadese gi katkuet katsada guine punta pot punta. Ti mapot ta pula` haf` na taiguine masusesede: Taya` kabisiyu para u esgaihon che`chu` linahyan gi hilu` kabales fitme yan metgot na planun kinimite para u adelanta lina`la`-ta. Guaha buttu lau taigue i metgot na sensian kabisiyu.

Huñgan, guaha manatachu kumu man-ma-elihe. Lau hombre siha sige ma-apotsu i asuntu. Ni unu asigurau haf` ha petsisige para u adelanta i linala` tautau-ta. Ti listiyu` fumohne `sino pumohyan ni unu sa` magahet na makat i asunto-ta siha na biahe. Mamatmos Marianas gi halom sumen taduñg na fache` dibi. Tinahoñg fondu gi kaha para obligasion siha.

Deste dibin fondu para man-ritirau, dibin kandet hospitat yan otru siha depattamentu yan ahensia, yan kahulu` presiun nessessidat. Gi mismu tiempu masimientu yan gatdun sueddon i tautau pot mas ke dies años esta na tiempu. Dispues para u kahulu` apas health insurance kuarenta pot sientu. Mas inaminasa monedan familia. Guaha mohon esperansan adelantu gi hilu` sumen piligro na kondision miyon pot miyon pesus na dibin gobietnu?

Tiempon Kara` (Broke)

Deste alacha piot pa`gu, haye ha` hu soda` ma-imprinta “kara” gi ha`ña. Hu tobus gi un` banda pot buente semanán broke.

Ilegña amiguhu Maggo, “Ahe` Iku ti semanán broke. Kada dia-yu` kara`!” Matachoñg ham ya in` atotga umestudiaye haf` masusede.

Ti mapot: Todu gastu mañgahulu` mientras i sueddu masimientu ya ketu gi mismu lugat deste dies años tatte.` Entretanto sige hit man-afaisen kuestion sin propio ineppe. I machalapon man-lache siha na infotmasion haf` na kimason sabana.

I ekonomia mampos chafleg na ni apas dibin gobietnu \$29 miyon pesus para CUC ti siña ma-kubre. Hagas na diskuidu. Ha amuntonague` ya loka`ña pa`gu ke hegsu` I Deni`.

Komprendiyon i tumunog kilulog siglu gi enteru ekonomian el-

mundu. I man-dikiki na lugat siha mas man-inaminasa nu este na chinatsaga tat kumu Marianas. Mas inatisa pinadese iya Marianas sa` ni planu taya` taimanu satbasioña i sige ha` dumidog na kinalamten.

Guaha mohon esperansa para mona? Gaige ineppe giya hamyu.

Finatton Eskases

Tat ti mamadedese pot te`ug na finatton tiempon eskases. Todu familia fumafana` este diariu. Kontodu hagas sagan pine`lon sinsiyu hu rikonose ya hu rikohe haf` siña hu soda`. Mauleg na kantida sinida` hu.

Ayu`nai huli`e chatsagan i tiempu gi gima`un` che`lu. Ni hanom magimen i prohimu taya` para usun familiaña. Hu ayudaye dididi` na salape`. Hu soyu` na u fatinase maptan i sin yan famaktiyan para`an mattu i tiempon uchan.

I familia siha ni hu bisita en kuando anog na guaha pinadese niniha. Lau kulan mana atog gi tatten potta. I pañgpañg konbet-sasion yan maña sumen keha. Parehu pinadese ti taimanu.

Mauleg ta adahe todun monedan familia. `An ti presisu pues mu-ñga umatotgante. Po`lu para`an finagcha`e hau chata`an.

Inadahen Moneda

Tat mas seguru na midision kinalamten ekonomia ke sueddomu mismu. Atan ñgai`an uttimu`nai mana`e hau subida (hatsada). Il-eghu na seru i ineppe sa` esta pot dies años deste ke masimientu este na asunto pot baban kinalamten ekonomian iya Marianas.

Gi hilu` este kahulu` ta`lu apas insurers (insurance) hinemlu` 40 pot sientu. Lamita gi este na gastu hagu para un` apase. Mas ke sientu pesus mas para bai` mahala ginen este. Kontodu fahan amot debi bai gef adahe.

Poresu na mauleg in` gef adahe haf` gaige gi inna` sahñge na pine`lu gi bañku kumu katsu siakassu hagacha` hit fotte na chata`an gi mattiron kinalamten.

I was against the casino but the people have sent a message that they want the casino by electing Gov. Inos, which I respect because we must move on. I'm a man *of* and *for* the people and I am also for progress. We the people need to do all we can to help the government in fulfilling the contract that was signed on our behalf as a contract is the closest thing mankind has to the 10 Commandments! Fighting Best Sunshine now is literally fighting ourselves and progress! Like the CEO of Best Sunshine said, we will never get someone to gamble on that property. Thanks, Best Sunshine, for being willing to take the risk. So do we continue the unwarranted protest like we did with Sugar Dock that got us nothing and a dilapidated dock that no can use anymore or did we learn from Sugar Dock that we must allow Best Sunshine do us all a favor and excavate in the name of progress?

We had better be mindful of protests that stop progress. If we don't hurry up and start changing things and modernizing the CNMI for our children, they will continue to do what they are doing—leaving for greener pastures in the mainland. The majority of people who want to stay here are the alien workers, so guess what the future holds for the CNMI if we continue to block progress. Saving land and preserving jungles is not progress and is not going to make them stay! So do we prepare a future for our children or do we destroy the hope of progress in Garapan over a site that no one was even thinking about until Best Sunshine wanted to use it? Let's at least find out what is there before protesting and saying no to progress. It is the wisdom of “looking before you leap.”

FYI readers: London is presently excavating *20,000 skeletons* to make way for progress (a train station) and we have people protesting who don't even know what is there and don't want us find out—sad and pathetic. It is only reasonable that Best Sunshine be allowed to excavate to see what is there or we may never know, leaving a jungle to grow in the middle of downtown Saipan, just like we see jungles in all the villages from people leaving. It is time for the CNMI to embrace progress and stop lingering on the past as our youth are more concerned about their future than the CNMI's past as it's their future we are playing with, not ours. Legalization is also our next test for progress and we know our youth

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



■■■
Durun chaleg yan un` malañgu`nai umatotpe ham gi Emergency Room. Hu faisen haf` pinadesisiña. Ilegña, “Taya, lau mattuyu para bai` chule` settifiku-hu ‘Mas matuñgo`ña as` ya u fonhahayan.” Dios mihu!

■■■
Hu soda` amiguhu Magoo gi hospitat. Hu faisen haf` guaha. Ilegña na kada ratu finalaguihon-gue`ni mime`ña. Hu sañ-gane na u fan espiha lañan brek (brake) ya u li`e kau finamauleg. Duru fumofu` sa` tina` chaleg para u tinatitiye pausadañgña katkuet lugat. Manadan chatfinu` ha lapblayu`.

■■■
Ilegña i man-amku` na yangin para un` fañaluda na seguru na tihoñg-mu un` u`usa ya ti tihoñg i otru. Lau guaha ha` lokue` ñala-ñg ma-rekognisa na achog tihuñg duendes fotmat mañaluda! Dios mihu na nina` mamahlau!

■■■
Yangin taya` mauleg para un` sañgan pot otru, suhaye pumohne i prohimu piot ya ni hagu mismu ti un` tuñgu` na babaña hau ke guiya. Muñga masugon i chiba ginen i kelat`an chatsiguru kau mauleg i pastahe gi ge`hiyuñg.

want that to happen so let's start now.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

BSI casino training

Now that our greatest economic investor and the strength of the Marianas—BSI casino—is rolling up its sleeves, ready to roll the dice and the funding, the local population will be very proud and fortunate to have the best training to participate in the casino industry.

I have a suggestion: Instead of BSI preparing the facility at T Galleria for training NMDs, (including residents of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian) or any U.S. citizen residing in the Northern Marianas, why not offer a scholarship for training at Tinian Dynasty? The scholarship would provide the casino apprentice housing, food allowance and other amenities, under scholarship terms that, when the trainee has completed the required training, he/she agrees to work for a certain number of months or years for BSI. For example, Gov. Inos can mediate between BSI and Dynasty a set curriculum and upwards of 200 trainees at a time. Once they have been certified to work in a casino, they could then return to T Galleria where they would be qualified to work and guaranteed a job and then another 200 trainees could avail themselves of the scholarship program.

Once BSI has finished construction at the Samoan Housing location, the new trainees could rotate from the T Galleria (which would be a smaller casino) to the Best Sunshine establishment (which would be considerably larger) and possibly to other Best Sunshine entities.

The Northern Marianas College shall sanction the trainees' diploma once the course is satisfactorily completed. This would be another distinct and successful moment in the history of the Inos administration to embrace the Northern Mariana Island and its people as one. God bless the United States of America.

Jack Atalig
Pali'e, Rota

Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury, or PATBI; Protection & Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities, or PADD; and Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights, or PAIR.

Jeanne Rayphand is legal counsel of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. This article is an unsolicited and unpaid contribution by the author.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Best Sunshine is doing the right thing in Garapan

“Pathetic” is the best word I can think of to describe the controversy over the Garapan location for the casino. After seeing the view of the jungle in the middle of Garapan, I had to say something as this entire fiasco reminds me so much of the same kind of fiasco we saw with Sugar Dock. We all now know that the protest to save Sugar Dock has proven to be a complete mistake given the dilapidated condition that now exists—a missed opportunity to develop Sugar Dock and a missed opportunity to have a ferry that would have taken people and their cars to Tinian. I guess there are those who didn't learn the valuable lesson because they are about to delay progress again for the past when we should be preparing a better future for our children.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo is right as we all need to know what is really at the location in Garapan, especially when Best Sunshine is willing to gamble on excavating. The location is nothing more than an eyesore and no one was taking care of it, allowing a jungle to grow in the middle of our only major metropolitan area on the island. For goodness sake, Garapan is our downtown but there are those who would rather have a jungle there for tourists to see! We should be developing all of Garapan as it was once described by a historian as looking like San Francisco and there are no jungles in San Francisco! If people were taking care of the location and had plans for it as a tourist attraction I could understand the protest but that is not the case. Just like with Sugar Dock, there are no plans to improve it; just a bid to stop progress.

Best Sunshine is offering the CNMI a great win-win scenario because if they find something of significance it can become a tourist attraction and Best Sunshine will have to find another location. But if they don't find anything of significance it will pave the way for expediting the construction of the casino as the sooner it is built the sooner we will start receiving the full benefits of the casino. If there are only a few graves, they can be moved and given a proper burial with some form of a memorial. But more importantly, we will finally know for true what is there, which should be the main concern, not stopping progress before it can even start.

DEADLINE

From Page 10

235-7273; (670) 235-7274; (670) 235-7275 (fax); (670) 235-7278 (tty); nmpasi.org. NMPASI may be able to assist through one of its programs, such as Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness, or PAIMI;

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

FRIDAY

Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼75°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

▲85° ▼77°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered 80 miles south of Majuro near 6N172E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms encompass the Marshall Islands and spread westward into Kosrae state between the equator and 10N from 161E to 177E. Low-level convergence northeast of the disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of the Marshall Islands between 15N and 10N from 169E to the date line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲76	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲56	▼26
Hong Kong	Showers	▲64	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼64
London	Showers	▲56	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼72
Melbourne	Showers	▲66	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼39
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼37
Pusan	Sunny	▲52	▼37
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼47
Salem	Rain	▲60	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼36
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲64	▼39

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
12:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:25 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:43 PM	10:39 AM
Friday		11:28 AM
Saturday	12:37 AM	12:21 PM
Sunday	1:31 AM	1:17 PM
Monday	2:26 AM	2:15 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM								

MTEC and MVA visit 18 CNMI public schools

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority have wrapped up their annual school presentations, visiting 18 public schools with the message that "Tourism is everybody's business."

MTEC chairwoman Vicky Benavente has led the presentations for the last four years in the CNMI public and private schools. MTEC is administered by a board of directors, including Perry Tenorio of MVA, Christopher Lubi of Ernst & Young, Jonas Barcinas and Naomi Nishimura of the CNMI Public School System, Larry Lee of MTEC, James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, Christopher Concepcion of Delta Air Lines, and Gordon Marciano of PDI.

"At each MTEC presentation, students are asked how they can become involved with the islands' tourism industry. At every age level, they are much more aware of the importance of taking good care of our visitors and at the same time the importance of taking good care of our natural resources," said Benavente.

A number of industry professionals joined MTEC this year in the presentations, including GM Gloria Cavanagh, Robert Bansil, and Robin Sablan from Mariana Resort & Spa; photographer Del Benson, PIC Saipan executive Glenn Policare, Tony Satur of Laolao Bay Golf Resort, and Marciano.

"I appreciate very much the students' enthusiasm; tourism is highly regarded as a priority. I know we are in good hands with our future tourism ambassadors taking us all to the next level," said Marciano. "We should continue to praise MTEC for their efforts to align today's stakeholders with our children to [help them] understand that there is opportunity for all in the tourism industry."



"I can really see how MTEC's tourism summits and visits to the schools are greatly increasing our younger generations' understanding of the value and importance of tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands," added Lee. "The students are actually thinking about the kinds of tourism jobs they'd like to pursue and about furthering their education in the hospitality industry."

MTEC's presentations to the schools included visitor demographics, language lessons, survey results, the benefits of tourism, industry jobs, and ways students can help support tourism. Giveaways were provided by Pacific Islands Club Saipan and the MVA.

MTEC is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the tourism industry and its importance to the community. (MTEC)

▲ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Photographer Del Benson shares professional insights with students of San Antonio Middle School on Jan. 13, 2015, as part of the tourism presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students of Dandan Middle School answer questions posed by Pacific Development Inc. director Gordon Marciano on Jan. 8, 2015, as part of the tourism presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council. Marciano is also a MTEC board member.



Applications now being accepted for emergency food, shelter program

The CNMI received \$83,070 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the Northern Mariana Islands.

A Local Board made up of NMI stakeholders will now determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI from the Department of Homeland Security are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies here in the Commonwealth.

The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system,

4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The CNMI has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Salvation Army, Karidat, and Guma Esperanza participating. These agencies were responsible for providing 13,128 meals and 1,108 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Local Board chair John Hirsh at 234-3459 or John.Hirsh@redcross.org for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is 5pm on Monday, March 16, 2015. (ARC)

Japan's Oceana returns to Northern Marianas

Japan's top diving website, Oceana, returned to the Northern Marianas last month to visit dive sites on Saipan and Tinian.

Oceana filmed on the islands for 10 days last month, covering dive sites and other tourist attractions. The website's last visit was in 2014 when they featured Rota's attractions and dive sites.

Oceana has a monthly page view of 230,000 and uses social networking sites to promote the media to divers. Oceana introduces major overseas diving destinations such as Palau, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The website will also develop a Northern Marianas pamphlet for release in April 2015 targeting young females.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority was pleased to assist Oceana with the processing of permits and some other logistics for their recent filming [on] Saipan and Tinian," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

Sites visited included Mangaha Island, Banzai Cliff, Last Command Post, Suicide Cliff, Bird Islands Lookout,

Wing Beach, Paupau Beach, Obyan Beach, Micro Beach, Forbidden Island, Sugar King Park and a number of key dive sites. Other locations visited included Pacific Islands Club

Saipan Seaside Bar & Grill, Mariana Resort & Spa, Mandi Asia Spa, Aqua Resort Sunset Dinner BBQ, Star Sands Plaza, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Saipan Sunset Cruise, Let's Go

Tour, Cha, and Winchell's. During their three days of diving on Tinian, the group also visited Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and toured local attractions and historic sites. (MVA)



Oceana, Japan's largest diving website, filmed in Saipan and Tinian in February 2015. Pictured from left are writer and model Inou Kaoruko, crew and captain of the boat, underwater cameraman Nakamura Takuya, and Mariana Sports Club diving instructor Yamaguchi Toshi.



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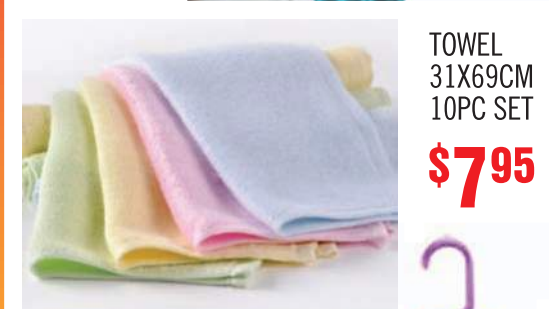
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AHI MOUR, AHI PWUKOAH!

A campaign to save Pohnpei's watersheds and reef fisheries

On Jan. 25, 2015, the Pohnpei Fisheries Management Working Group kicked off a campaign to save Pohnpei's watersheds and fisheries during a special session of the *Mwoahl en Wahu Ileile en Wein Pohnpei* (The Paramount Chiefs Council of Pohnpei Island).

The group, composed of government and non-government organizations, along with Pohnpei fishers and farmers, appeared before the Council with the Nature Conservancy's Pacific Director, Bill Raynor.

Raynor thanked the island's Paramount Chiefs for 35 years of hospitality and respect during which time they made him the first American village "talking" chief (*Pelien Dahl*). He urged the traditional leaders to take control of the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve and the Marine Protected Areas work around the state in order to real-

ize the vision of those who began these partnerships 29 years ago.

The vision remains to protect Pohnpei's rich natural resources in order to secure and improve the quality of life for the people of Pohnpei as they depend on these resources for their livelihoods and survival.

The Paramount Chiefs Council unanimously agreed to take the lead in this effort and to ensure that the campaign message: *Ahi Mour; Ahi Pwukoah* (*My life. My community. My reef. My responsibility*), reaches all the citizens and residents of Pohnpei.

Following this commitment, and at the invitation of the *Soukinsehnle* (Paramount Chief of the Municipality of Kitti), the Group was able to present on the rapidly decreasing areas of intact forests and depleting reef fish stocks in



From left, councilwomen Josepha Pelep, Adorfine John, and Yuko Nakasone.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pohnpei at the gathering of the traditional leaders of Kitti

municipality on Feb. 14, 2015. *Nahnsahuririn Madolenihmw*, Pius Hadley, who is also the director of the Pohnpei Department of Land & Natural Resources, headed the campaign at the meeting in the community of Enipein Pah, Kitti, and continued pushing the message shared by Raynor.

At the assembly, *Soukinsehnle* strongly declared (*Poahngoak*) that he will no longer allow any illegal, undersized and threatened species in traditional events. The threatened species include turtles, bump-head parrotfish (*kemeik*) and Napoleon wrasse (*Merer*). He instructed all the section chiefs of Kitti (*Soumas*) to do the same in their respective village (*Kousapw*) feasts and ceremonies. He further instructed the Kitti municipal government to ensure that his message (*Poahngoak*) is heard and observed by all the

residents of Kitti Municipality.

The campaign continued to progress at a gathering of over 100 local government council members, during the Pohnpei State local government Council Summit on Feb. 19, 2015. A highlight included Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture Administrator Joseph Saimon's response to a question on the need for stronger penalties for fishers. "The best law is the responsibility we take for ourselves," he said. Another highlight was a remark from Councilwoman Yuko Nakasone, who said that she found the presentation "very enlightening"—she would not have known the gravity and urgency of the problem were it not for the presentation that Executive Director of CSP, Eugene Joseph, delivered at the gathering.

On Feb. 21, 2014, the message was then shared at a

meeting of the Catholic Deacons in Pohnpei. Following discussions among the Deacons and the Working Group, Fr. Julio Angken and the Deacons affirmed that they would all support and spread the awareness campaign amongst their respective parishes.

"The campaign is very much in alignment with our spiritual values. We must be grateful for the gifts in natural resources that God has given us and it is our responsibility to take care of them," said Angken.

The Working Group will continue to campaign in all the municipalities in Pohnpei and with other stakeholder groups. The Working Group is also collaborating with the Pohnpei Women's Council, which has adopted the *Ahi Mour; Ahi Pwukoah* theme for this year's International Women's Day celebrations on March 13, 2015. (PR)



Children have their picture taken with Rosa Delima Santos, a fisher from Kitti municipality and member of the Pohnpei Marine Advisory Council.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM EVENT

Paulino receives Philippine National Defense award

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, was presented with the second highest medal given by the Republic of the Philippines' Secretary of National Defense, during the recently held Bilateral Exchange Calendar Board at the former Clark Air Base, in Pampanga, the Philippines.

The Outstanding Achievement Medal is a single grade decoration of the Philippines and was awarded by the Secretary of National Defense to personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as well as citizens of allied nations for distinguished or extraordinary achievement or service in the advancement of science or in socio-economic, technical or military fields related to national defense, or for public service of the highest order.

Rear Admiral Aurelio Ra-

busa, Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines J9, Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve and Retiree Affairs, presented the award to Paulino in appreciation for his extraordinary and distinguished service in spearheading and developing the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program between Guam and the Philippines since its inception in 2000.

The SPP is a Department of Defense-sponsored program administered by the National Guard Bureau, partnering Guard units from different states with selected countries for nation building, among other projects.

Missions under the SPP help strengthen relations between the Philippines and the U.S. About 18 community service and military training events were discussed and planned during the recent Bilateral Exchange Calendar Board. Community

events include Medical Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, Engineer Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, and Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Readiness SMEEs. Military to military training events include Basic Instructor courses, and medical first responder SMEEs.

Paulino, in his final address to the attendees, noted how communication between the Guam National Guard and AFP have strengthened, saying, "The bond of our State Partnership is cemented in the professional and personal relationships developed between us over the past 15 years."

"I have a sense of melancholy as I will be retiring next month. I have enjoyed the opportunity to watch our partnership grow from its infancy. We began with baby steps, but have far exceeded the expectations I envisioned in 2000. Together, we have

made the partnership the most successful in the Pacific Command Region," said Paulino.

The partnership between GUNG and the AFP Reserve Command is almost 15 years old and has seen nearly 100 training events conducted, encompassing areas as diverse as civilian-military training, military to military training, and humanitarian missions such as engineer and medical civic action projects.

The bilateral talks were attended by senior leaders of the AFP Reserve and active duty commands of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as key personnel from the Guam National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard, U.S. Army Pacific, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, U.S. Army Cadet Command, and the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group. (PR)

UOG professor publishes her second volume of tanka poetry

» Author explores cat-owner relationship through Japanese tanka poetry

Dr. Yukiko Inoue-Smith, a professor of Educational Psychology and Research at the University of Guam School of Education, has released her new book, *Cat-Tanka, Vol. 2: The Story of Goblin and Pumpkin Junior*. The book, written in a classic Japanese poetry form called *tanka*, is published by Union Press.

The book is the story of two cats. The cats are young, full of energy, and brimming with curiosity. A couple's shared realization that they needed cats in their lives allowed them to keep a sense of humor as they faced the many problems these two cats create, and without

losing sight of their affection for the cats. The book contains 419 tanka poems and 24 photos of cats. Interestingly, this book was published on Feb. 23, 2015, exactly two years after the cats were born as if the book were their birthday gift.

Yukiko Inoue-Smith, PhD, is a Professor of Education at the University of Guam, where she teaches educational psychology. Books in the specialized field include: Cases on Blended and Online Learning Technologies, and Online Education for Lifelong Learning. *Tanka* books recently published include: *Was It All A Dream?*, and *Cat Tanka, Vol. 1*. (UOG)



Inoue-Smith

Business

Review: New MacBook shows Apple not giving up on laptop

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The MacBook Air was revolutionary when Apple started selling it in 2008. Though still thin and light, the Air now feels like a cheap cousin next to more powerful MacBook Pro laptops and Windows laptops known as ultrabooks.

So Apple returned to the drawing board and came up with a two pound, energy-efficient, silent machine it's calling, simply, the MacBook.

The little time I had with it was enough to impress. The MacBook is thinner and lighter than the Air. It feels like an iPad, except with a regular keyboard and screen. In fact, the MacBook incorporates many of the design techniques Apple learned from the iPad, including making the laptop work without a fan and squeezing all the electronics onto a small card, known as the logic board.

The MacBook, which goes on sale April 10, isn't cheap—but it's reasonably priced for a Mac laptop. The \$1,299 model comes with 256 gigabytes of storage. That's double what you get on the \$899 Air version. It's the same amount of storage you get for the \$1,099 Air but MacBook's high-resolution screen is much better. For \$300 more, you get a MacBook with faster processor and 512 gigabytes of storage.

MacBook's 12-inch screen is the "Retina" display found in the latest MacBook Pros, iPhones and iPads. I hadn't found the Air's screen problematic but once you see the crisp text on Retina, you start noticing the Air's deficiencies.

The new MacBook's keyboard promises better precision and extends all the way to the



Members of the media and Apple guests get a look at the new MacBook in the demo room after an Apple event on Monday, March 9, 2015, in San Francisco.

left and right sides of the laptop. That's similar to how the frames on phones have shrunk to maximize screen space. Apple kept a full-size keyboard—a wise decision, as smaller keys placed more closely to each other can be difficult to type.

The new MacBook also has an improved trackpad. It's designed in such a way that it should feel the same wherever you tap it. With the current Air, the mouse-click capabilities are along the edge closer to you. The new trackpad also enables new controls. If you hover over an icon and press on the trackpad for a few seconds, a preview of the file opens.

What's the catch?

Apple has a history of ditching older technologies as it comes out with new designs. The iMac got rid of the floppy disk drive long before other PCs did. The Air dropped the DVD drive and eventually traditional hard drives (it uses flash memory, similar to iPhones and iPads). The new MacBook drops USB

ports, which are common for printers and other accessories. (Ironically, it was the iMac that popularized USB.)

In Apple's mind, who needs accessories when you do just about everything wirelessly?

Apple's proprietary MagSafe power-charging port has been replaced with a standardized USB Type-C connection. It's an emerging technology that will also connect accessories and serve as a display output. It's like taking all of the Air's existing ports and squeezing them into this new Type-C one. The difference is you need to share that port among your various chargers and accessories. And there are few that work with Type-C for now, so you'll need to buy adapters.

The new MacBook also lacks an SD slot for camera memory, something the 13-inch MacBook Air has but the 11-inch does not. Then again, few people take photos on stand-alone cameras these days. Battery life is comparable to the 11-inch Air, but a few hours short of the 13-inch version.

Good news for some of us: Other people are quitting jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Quitting your job—all but unheard of during and after the Great Recession—is becoming more common again. That could mean pay raises are coming for more Americans.

The trend has already emerged in the restaurant and retail industries, where quits and pay are rising faster than in the overall economy. Workers in those industries appear to be taking advantage of rising consumer demand to seek better pay elsewhere.

Workers who quit typically do so to take higher-paying jobs. That's why rising numbers of quits typically signal confidence in the economy and the job market. As the trend takes hold, employers are often forced to offer higher pay to hold on to their staffers or attract new ones.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that the number of people who quit jobs rose 3

percent from December to January to 2.8 million—the most in more than six years. Quits have jumped 17 percent over the past 12 months.

Since the Great Recession ended, the figure has soared. Just 1.6 million people quit their jobs in August 2009, two months after the recession officially ended. That was the fewest for any month in the 14 years that the figures have been tracked.

Quits tend to open up more jobs for the unemployed. One barrier for the jobless in a weak economy is that few workers risk quitting their jobs to take a different one, in part because new hires are often most likely to be laid off.

So most workers stay put, leaving fewer options for college graduates, people recently laid off and others seeking work.

The rising number of quits

has begun to affect many larger corporations. Frank Friedman, interim CEO at the consulting and auditing firm Deloitte, says his firm's clients, which include about 80 percent of the Fortune 500, are increasingly struggling to retain employees.

"The biggest problem for many businesses is talent retention," Friedman said. "Wages are a critical component of it. The balance of power has changed in favor of the employee."

Deloitte itself faces the same challenges. It's stepping up its hiring, in part because more of its employees have left for other jobs.

The firm plans to add 24,000 people this year, including paid internships, to its staff of 72,000. That's up from the past several years, when Deloitte typically hired 19,000 to 21,000 people, and the increase is largely to make up for more quits.

Nation

Clinton: I should have used govt account

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Confronting a growing political furor, Hillary Rodham Clinton conceded Tuesday it was a mistake to exclusively use private email as secretary of state, but she defiantly rejected accusations that she created a security risk or violated the law. She also defended getting rid of tens of thousands of personal emails.

"I fully complied with every rule I was governed by," Clinton said in a 20-minute news conference that marked her first comments on the controversy.

Clinton's acknowledgement that she deleted emails she described as personal in nature is likely to fuel further criticism from Republicans who see the matter as harmful to the former secretary of state's all-but-certain presidential campaign. Because Clinton's emails were run off a personal server that she does not

intend to turn over to the government, there is no way to independently verify the content of the discarded emails.

Clinton said she had exchanged about 60,000 emails in her four years as President Barack Obama's secretary of state. Half were work-related and none contained classified information, she said.

The controversy has presented a major test for Clinton and upended her careful blueprint for the rollout of her campaign. The clear front-runner for the Democratic nomination, Clinton had planned to spend March touting her work on women's issues and giving a handful of paid speeches before announcing her candidacy in early April.

Instead, she found herself standing before dozens of reporters at the United Nations addressing a matter that has revived questions of ethics and secrecy that have long trailed

Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton. Her appearance came after her previously scheduled speech on women's rights at the UN.

Before Tuesday's news conference, Clinton's only comment on the email disclosures had been a late-night tweet last week saying she wanted the State Department to make her emails public. Her decision to weigh in further came as Democratic allies began publicly pushing her to do so.

Asked whether the email disclosures would affect her presidential ambitions, Clinton said, "I trust the American people to make their decisions about political and public matters."

The Republican Party's leading presidential prospects had no immediate response to Clinton's explanations. But in a signal that the issue was unlikely to fade soon, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus blasted Clinton's comments as "completely disingenuous."



Clinton

Ferguson city manager out after Justice Department report

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP)—The Ferguson City Council on Tuesday evening unanimously approved a resolution to part ways with City Manager John Shaw following a scathing Justice Department report that alleged racial bias in the city police department and court system.

The St. Louis suburb has been beleaguered by unrest since a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed, black 18-year-old last summer.

Michael Brown's death prompted protests in the St. Louis area and across the nation, including after a St. Louis County grand jury declined to bring charges against former Officer Darren Wilson.

The Justice Department in its report last week also cleared Wilson of civil rights charges in the shooting, saying the

evidence supported his claim he was acting in self-defense. But the department outlined ways the Ferguson police and court systems functioned as a money-making enterprise that heightened tensions among the city's black residents. The report repeatedly cited Shaw's role, as the city's chief executive, in encouraging the police force to aggressively ticket motorists as a means to generate revenue.

The findings also cited cases of racial profiling and bigotry by the predominantly white police force in the mostly black St. Louis suburb.

The report already has led to a Missouri appeals court judge being tapped to overhaul the local court system, and racist emails included in the investigation led to the firing of the city clerk and resignation of

two police officers last week.

A news release from the city said the Council had reached a "mutual separation agreement" with Shaw, effective immediately. The statement also said a nationwide search for Shaw's replacement would begin right away.

"I believe that the city of Ferguson has the resolve to overcome the challenges it faces in the coming months and emerge as a stronger community for it," Shaw, 39, said in a statement included with the release.

Since Brown's death seven months ago, Knowles has been the public face and voice of Ferguson's city government. But Shaw held the legal power to make personnel and policy changes in the police department—not Knowles, a part-time officeholder who earns less than \$5,000 annually.

ACROSS THE NATION

Amtrak train hit tractor-trailer too big for I-95

HALIFAX, N.C. (AP)—The 127-ton tractor-trailer that derailed an Amtrak train at a railroad crossing in North Carolina was about three times the size and weight of a standard 18-wheeler, so huge it required a Highway Patrol escort, and so tall that it had to take back roads around some Interstate overpasses. Authorities say the truck driver involved in Monday's crash that injured 55 people was struggling to negotiate a tight left-hand turn across the tracks from one two-lane highway to another with this enormous load when the passenger train came roaring around a curve in the tiny community of Halifax. A special state permit enabled the transport company to exceed length and weight limits as it hauled the electrical distribution facility made by PCX Corp. to New Jersey. It said the tractor and trailer was 164 feet long, with 13 axles to support the combined

weight of 255,000 pounds. A standard 18-wheeler has five axles and tops out at 80,000 pounds.

Fraternity members in video apologize for racist chant

DALLAS (AP)—A former University of Oklahoma fraternity member who was shown in a video chanting a racial slur issued an apology Tuesday, as did the parents of a second student. In a statement emailed by his father, Parker Rice said the incident that was caught on video was "likely was fueled by alcohol," but "that's not an excuse." "I am deeply sorry for what I did Saturday night," Rice said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press by his father. "It was wrong and reckless." Meanwhile, the parents of another student seen on the video, Levi Pettit, released a statement that said, "he made a horrible mistake, and will live with the consequences forever." Both Pettit and Rice are from Texas.

Asia

Nut rage flight attendant sues Korean Air, former executive

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A flight attendant who was harassed by a former Korean Air Lines Co. vice president in what became known as the nut rage case filed a civil lawsuit against the airline and the executive.

Kim Do Hee, the flight attendant, is seeking compensation through a trial in New York city after she was verbally and physically attacked by Cho Hyun-ah, according to a statement on Wednesday by two American law firms, the Weinstein Law Firm and Kobre & Kim.

Cho, a vice president overseeing cabin service at the time of the Dec. 5 incident, was enraged that Kim served her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a dish.

After a heated confrontation with crew in the first class cabin, Cho ordered head flight attendant Park Chang-jin off the plane, forcing it to return to a gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

It is the first civil lawsuit connected with the nut rage case, which infuriated South Koreans and hogged global headlines. Last month a South Korean court sentenced Cho,



In this Dec. 30, 2014 file photo, Cho Hyun-ah, former vice president of Korean Air Lines Co., arrives at the Seoul Western District Prosecutors Office in Seoul, South Korea.

40, to one year in prison for violating aviation security laws, using violence against a flight attendant and other charges. Cho, who is the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, has appealed the ruling.

The summons filed Monday with the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Queens said Cho screamed obscenities at Kim and hit and

threatened her.

She was also pressured to lie to government investigators to cover up the incident and to appear in public with Cho "as part of an orchestrated effort to try and rehabilitate Cho's public image," the summons said.

Kim is seeking compensatory damages and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the trial.

China says Muslim Uighurs have joined Islamic State group

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials say that members of the country's Muslim Uighur ethnic minority have gone overseas to fight with the Islamic State group, which controls sections of Syria and Iraq, and returned to take part in plots at home.

Authorities in the far-western region of Xinjiang, which borders Afghanistan and Pakistan, will strengthen their crackdown on terrorism and extremism, regional representatives said at a discussion on the sidelines of China's legislature.

Xinjiang has seen repeated violence as Uighurs have bristled under what they say is re-

pressive Chinese government rule. Attacks blamed on Uighurs have also occurred in other parts of the country, including a car which plowed into Beijing's Tiananmen Gate in 2013, killing five people.

"There are Uighurs that have fled overseas and joined the Islamic State," Zhang Chunxian, Communist Party secretary of Xinjiang, said Tuesday. "The organization has a huge international influence and Xinjiang can't keep aloof from it and we have already been affected. We have also found that some who fought returned to Xinjiang to participate in terrorist plots." He

didn't elaborate.

Beijing has previously blamed the violence on Islamic militants with foreign connections who are seeking an independent state in Xinjiang, but has offered little evidence and ignored calls for independent investigations. Uighur groups say police have used indiscriminate deadly force against people protesting the government's policies in the region.

The Global Times, a newspaper affiliated with the ruling Communist Party, said in December that about 300 Chinese are fighting alongside the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Solar-powered plane lands in India on 2nd leg of world trip

AHMADABAD, India (AP)—A Swiss-made solar powered aircraft landed in western India on Tuesday night, completing the second leg—and its first sea crossing—of its historic round-the-world trip.

The Solar Impulse 2 touched down at Ahmadabad airport in Gujarat state about 16 hours after it took off from Muscat, Oman, for the 1,465-kilometer (910-mile) flight without a drop of fuel.

The world's first aircraft powered by solar energy was to remain in Ahmadabad for two days before flying to the holy city of Varanasi in northern India on Saturday.

The Swiss pilots, Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg, are taking turns at the controls of the aircraft during their

35,000-kilometer (21,700-mile) journey.

The aircraft's wings are covered by more than 17,000 solar cells that recharge the plane's batteries. It flies ideally at around 25 knots, or 45 kph (28 mph).

On Monday, Borschberg, who co-founded the Solar Impulse company that built the plane, flew the Si2 from Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Arab Emirates, to nearby Oman in the first leg of the epic journey. Piccard flew the second leg, to Ahmadabad.

The Swiss explorers say their aim is to highlight the importance of renewable energy and the spirit of innovation. They say the visionary journey is a "strong message for clean tech-

nologies."

Si2 is slated to make 12 stops during its 35,000-kilometer (21,700-mile) journey, including in China and Myanmar, before it crosses over the Pacific Ocean. It will then land in Hawaii and the U.S. Midwest and East Coast before flying over the Atlantic Ocean. It may also stop in southern Europe or North Africa, depending on weather conditions.

Some legs of the trip, such as over the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, will mean five days and five nights of flying solo.

Both pilots have been training hard for this journey, which will span 25 flight days over five months. Borschberg has been practicing yoga and Piccard self-hypnosis.

World

Argentina probes copter crash; France mourns dead athletes

VILLA CASTELLI, Argentina (AP)—Investigators picked through the wreckage of two helicopters Tuesday, removing cellphones, bits of paper and other charred and unrecognizable items, as France mourned the loss of prominent athletes in the dual crash in the Andean foothills.

The eight French nationals and two Argentine pilots on the two aircraft were killed when they collided and burst into flames shortly after taking off Monday near the remote settlement of Villa Castelli in northwestern Argentina.

Among the victims were Olympic champion swimmer Camille Muffat, Olympic bronze-medalist boxer Alexis Vastine and pioneering sailor Florence Arthaud. They were contestants on the reality TV show "Dropped," which was being shot in the sparsely populated region.

Expressions of grief poured in from French athletes and officials, including President Francois Holland, who said he felt "immense sadness."

The International Olympic Committee announced it would fly its flag at half-staff for three days.

French officials said they would work with Argentine investigators to determine the cause of the accident.

La Rioja's aviation director, Daniel Gorkich, told The Associated Press that both pilots were highly trained and he speculated that afternoon sun and strong winds might have been a factor.

At the moment of impact "the sun was setting on the Andes mountain range directly in front of them. Also this is an area with wind gusts," Gorkich said.

A widely circulated video shows the blades of one helicopter hitting the rails of the second, causing both aircraft to lose control and crash.

The two Eurocopters crashed about 50 feet (15 meters) apart and were destroyed. One aircraft was so charred that only the blades were recognizable.

Fabrice Pellerin, Muffat's former coach, fondly recalled



the 25-year-old swimmer who won gold in the 400-meter freestyle as well as a silver and a bronze at the 2012 London Olympics. "Always smiling. She was a fantastic person," he said.

Vastine's death was a terrible loss, said Dominique Nato, the former technical director of the French Boxing Federation. "It feels like I've lost a member of my family. He was my friend, he was like my little brother."

Iraq seizes town on outskirts of Islamic State-held Tikrit

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi soldiers and Shiite militiamen captured a town Tuesday on the outskirts of the Islamic State-held city of Tikrit, sealing off Saddam Hussein's hometown in preparation to confront the extremists in one of their biggest strongholds, officials said.

Seizing Alam puts the offensive on course to attempt to liberate Tikrit in the coming days, the ultimate battle-readiness test for Iraqi forces now advancing there without the support of U.S.-led airstrikes. Their operation likely will set the stage for how Iraq attempts to retake the more-densely populated cities of Mosul and Fallujah from the militants.

Iraqi forces entered Alam

early Tuesday morning, their armored convoys roaring past the empty arid fields and occasional palm tree before gaining full control hours later, two Iraqi officials said. By nightfall, the military sealed off Tikrit on all sides, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists.

Tikrit, the capital of Salahuddin province, lies about 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad. Sniper fire and roadside bombs initially hampered the advance into Alam, said Ahmed al-Karim, the Salahuddin provincial council chief. Extremists also blew up the Alam bridge to slow the Iraqi force, military

officials said.

After seizing Alam, Shiite militiamen held assault rifles over their heads, chanting that the Islamic State group was "unable to conquer us." Their involvement has been key in the Iraqi offensive, as have the involvement of Iranian military advisers guiding them.

Among those directing operations is Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force. The overt Iranian role and the prominence of Shiite militias in the campaign have raised fears of possible sectarian cleansing should Tikrit, an overwhelmingly Sunni city, fall to the government troops.

WORLD BRIEFS

34 killed in explosion at market in northeastern Nigeria

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP)—At least 34 persons were killed by a teenage girl suicide bomber on Tuesday at a crowded market in the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, said witnesses. The blast by a female teenager occurred in the market near the Old Elkanemi Cinema in the late afternoon, said Musa Danbaba, a member of a civilian protection militia. He said 34 bodies were counted and many more were wounded. No group immediately claimed responsibility

for the bombing, but it bears the hallmarks of Nigeria's Islamic extremist group, Boko Haram. The Maiduguri market is where suicide bombers on Saturday detonated explosives that killed 54 people.

Ex-Italian premier Berlusconi's acquittal upheld

ROME (AP)—Italy's highest court upheld Silvio Berlusconi's acquittal in his infamous "bunga bunga" case Tuesday, giving the former premier a welcome legal victory as he tries to rally his Forza Italia party ahead of re-

gional elections in May. The Court of Cassation rejected prosecutors' appeal and confirmed Berlusconi's acquittal on charges he paid for sex with an underage prostitute during raunchy, sex-fueled "bunga bunga" parties at his Milan villa, and used his influence to cover it up. A lower court had convicted the three-time former premier of both charges, and sentenced him to seven years in prison and a lifetime ban from holding public office. But an appeals court reversed the verdict last year—a decision that was confirmed by the Cassation Tuesday.

Environment

Let's Go employees rid Mt. Tapochau of trash

Employees of the Let's Go Tour Company on Saipan collected several large bags of trash from Mt. Tapochau during a cleanup on March 10. The volunteers decided as a group that they would start to collect trash that was accumulating in the parking lot and around the viewing decks.

Steve Sablan, Operation Manager said: "All of our guides are from Saipan and they take pride in their Island. Mt. Tapochau is absolutely one of the most beautiful places in the region and having a clean tourist stop makes it easier for our guides to show how pristine our islands are."

The guides also brought tools with them to collect trash that were hanging over ledges and obstructing photos and views of Garapan.

Tour guide Dan Sanchez said: "Every time I bring tourists up here I always try to pick up some trash, and I'm glad my co-workers and I got together to do this. We're going to keep doing this each time we come up here."

Let's Go Tour Company will also donate a commercial ashtray for visitors use. "We collected lots of cigarette butts throughout the area. In these windy and dry weather patterns, this could be disastrous for our environment. At least having somewhere to safely extinguish cigarettes would mitigate this problem," Sablan said.

Let's Go Tour Company opened in December 2014 and offer unique off-road tours with Polaris RZR vehicles. For more information contact sales@lets-go-saipan.com or call 322-5387/4646. (PR)



The volunteers collected lots of cigarette butts throughout the area, prompting Let's Go Tour Company to consider donating a commercial ashtray for the area. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Employees of the Let's Go Tour Company show off some of the garbage they collected during the cleanup on March 10 atop Mt. Tapochau. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Let's Go tour guides collect trash that were hanging over ledges and obstructing photos and views of Garapan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



One of the vehicles of Let's Go Tour Company is shown atop Mt. Tapochau. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Employees of the Let's Go Tour Company pick up trash that have accumulated along the lookout point of Mt. Tapochau. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Modernizing 'Cinderella' with humanity and the right stars

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Everyone knows the tale of Cinderella.

The story of the beautiful girl who is forced into servitude by a wicked stepfamily, transformed for a night by magic, and saved by a nameless prince has been around for centuries. But while “Cinderella” is ingrained in the world’s consciousness, it’s also as outdated as a fairy tale can be.

So why are audiences now getting an expensive retelling of the passé bedtime story, 65 years after Disney released its animated classic and just months after the screen version of “Into the Woods” poked fun at the idea of insincere princes and delusional princesses?

For one, Disney’s live-action adaptations of its animated properties have become big business for the studio. Between “Alice in Wonderland” (2010) and “Maleficent” (2014), Disney has grossed nearly \$2 billion worldwide from mining their archives for material to update. The studio already has a live-action “Beauty and the Beast” and an “Alice” sequel in development.

And yet, despite the too-obvious business objectives, there is nothing cynical about the latest “Cinderella,” which hits theaters on Friday.

“I wanted Cinderella, without being entirely a dreamer, to see life not as it is but what it could be,” says director Kenneth Branagh, who was excited to get the heroine out of a “time warp.”

To cast his leads, Branagh applied the same theory as he did when helping to pick Chris Hemsworth for “Thor”: Choose relative unknowns. He landed on Lily James of the British show “Downton Abbey” which airs on PBS, and Richard Madden, a vet of HBO’s “Game of Thrones.”

Instead of making “Cinderella” dark and gritty or dystopian, which Branagh believes have become clichéd, he and screenwriter Chris Weitz (“About a Boy”) imagined a world where she’s guided by a steadfast belief in kindness. It’s a message that Ella learns as a child and holds dear as things worsen under the rule of her spiteful stepmother (Cate Blanchett) and vain, doltish stepsisters (Holliday Grainger and Sophie McShera).

The film succeeds because of its sincerity.

“We couldn’t ever jump out of the movie and say, ‘You know, this is a bit silly and we’re much cooler than this, by the way.’ We’re daring to take this seriously,” Branagh said in



a joint interview.

Branagh encouraged James to read Mohandas Gandhi’s works and other writings on spiritual journeys to prepare for her role, hoping that she could incorporate the idea of nonviolent resistance into the character.

“We present this world where we see the grown-up Cinderella for the first time reading a book. There’s a curious mind in the house. It’s legit for her to have a sophisticated response to her position,” Branagh said.

“The old fashioned view of a damsel in distress who needs a man to come and save her from her life is irrelevant and not a message we should be telling children these days,” added Madden.

But Cinderella isn’t the only one given depth. All the characters are crafted with complexities, including the prince.

“I just wanted to make a man who was worthy of Cinderella’s affections and love. She is this amazing, strong, brave woman. She doesn’t need the prince,” Madden said.

The leads are lively and excitable together, even after weeks of international travel and hotel-bound press sessions and the knowledge that their promotional tour is not even close to finished.

“Well Disney gives us these shots every morning,” Madden joked of his boundless energy.

On the screen, their PG-rated chemistry is undeniable. Branagh orchestrated things so that they didn’t interact much before filming. He even planned out the shoot to begin with their first encounter.

“Ken wanted to capture the energy of two young people meeting for the first time,”

said James.

To make things even more uncertain, Branagh put both on horseback and had them circling one another throughout the scene, allowing them the freedom to improvise.

“It added a tension which was good for the scene,” said

Branagh. “The audience intuitively that it seems to be happening before our very eyes.”

While Madden and James do seem enormously comfortable with one another, their off-screen relationship is a professional one. During a photo shoot, James was asked

to pose with one hand on Madden’s chest. “But doesn’t this make us look like a couple?” she asked. “Like, Lily and Richard, not the Prince and Cinderella.”

In addition to his leads’ on-screen relationship, Branagh was especially consumed with

Jury finds Pharrell, Thicke copied for ‘Blurred Lines’ song

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury awarded Marvin Gaye’s children nearly \$7.4 million Tuesday after determining singers Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams copied their father’s music to create “Blurred Lines,” the biggest hit song of 2013.

Gaye’s daughter Nona Gaye wept as the verdict was read and was hugged by her attorney.

“Right now, I feel free,” she said outside court. “Free from ... Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke’s chains and what they tried to keep on us and the lies that were told.”

“Blurred Lines” has sold more than 7.3 million copies in the U.S. alone, according to Nielsen SoundScan figures. It earned a Grammy Awards nomination and netted Williams and Thicke millions of dollars.

The case was a struggle between two of music’s biggest names: Williams has sold more than 100 million records worldwide during his career as a singer-producer, and Gaye performed hits such as “Sexual Healing” and “How Sweet It Is (To be Loved by You)” remain popular.

The verdict could tarnish the legacy of Williams, a reliable hit-maker who has won Grammy Awards and appears on NBC’s music competition show “The Voice.”

He and Thicke are “undoubtedly disappointed,” said their lead attorney, Howard King.

“They’re unwavering in their absolute conviction that they wrote this song independently,” he said.

Thicke and Williams earned more than \$7 million apiece on the song, according to testimony.

King has said a decision in favor of Gaye’s heirs could have a chilling effect on musicians who try to emulate an era or another artist’s sound.

Larry Iser, an intellectual property attorney who has represented numerous musicians in copyright cases, was critical of the outcome.

“Unfortunately, today’s jury verdict has blurred the lines between protectable elements of a musical composition and the unprotectable musical style or groove exemplified by Marvin Gaye,” Iser said. “Although Gaye was the Prince of Soul, he didn’t own a copyright to the genre, and Thicke and Williams’ homage to the feel of Marvin Gaye is not infringing.”

Gaye’s children—Nona, Frankie and Marvin Gaye III—sued the two singers in 2013.

Their lawyer, Richard Busch, branded Williams and Thicke liars who went beyond trying to emulate the sound of Gaye’s

late-1970s music and copied the R&B legend’s hit “Got to Give It Up” outright.

The family “fought this fight despite every odd being against them,” Busch said after the verdict, which could face years of appeals.

Thicke told jurors he didn’t write “Blurred Lines,” which Williams testified he crafted in about an hour in mid-2012.

Williams testified that Gaye’s music was part of the soundtrack of his youth. But the seven-time Grammy winner said he didn’t use any of it to create “Blurred Lines.”

During closing arguments, Busch accused Thicke and Williams of lying about how the song was created. He told jurors they could award Gaye’s children millions of dollars if they determined the copyright of “Got to Give It Up” was infringed.

King denied there were any substantial similarities between “Blurred Lines” and the sheet music Gaye submitted to obtain copyright protection.

Williams has become a household name—known simply as Pharrell—thanks to his hit song “Happy” and his work as a judge on the “The Voice.” He wrote the majority of “Blurred Lines” and recorded it in one night with Thicke. A segment

This image released by Disney shows Lily James as Cinderella, left, and Richard Madden as the Prince in Disney’s live-action feature inspired by the classic fairy tale, “Cinderella.”

doing justice to the ball.

Production designer Dante Ferretti (“The Aviator”) transformed the 007 soundstage at London’s Pinewood Studios into a grand, three-story ballroom, complete with 5,000 hand-lit oil candles and 17 custom-made chandeliers for Cinderella’s big moment. And costume designer Sandy Powell (“Shakespeare in Love”) labored to build a dress for the occasion.

In the end, Powell created nine different versions of the airy blue confection, each boasting over 10,000 Swarovski crystals, 270 yards of fabric and three miles of hems.

While the visuals were designed for ultimate impact, the logistics of actually dancing with the delicate garment proved unwieldy at best.

“There are three of us in this relationship: Cinderella, the prince and the dress,” Madden said. “The dress tried to keep us apart.”

“Basically Richard would only have to look at it and it would rip,” added James.

by rapper T.I. was added later.

Williams, 41, also signed a document stating he didn’t use any other artists’ work in the music and would be responsible if a successful copyright claim was raised.

The trial focused on detailed analyses of chords and notes in both “Blurred Lines” and “Got to Give It Up.”

Jurors repeatedly heard the upbeat song “Blurred Lines” and saw snippets of its music video, but Gaye’s music was represented during the trial in a less polished form. Jurors did not hear “Got to Give It Up” as Gaye recorded it, but rather a version created based solely on sheet music submitted to gain copyright protection.

That version lacked many of the elements—including Gaye’s voice—that helped make the song a hit in 1977. Busch called the version used in court a “Frankenstein-like monster” that didn’t accurately represent Gaye’s work.

An expert for the Gaye family said there were eight distinct elements from “Got to Give It Up” that were used in “Blurred Lines,” but an expert for Williams and Thicke denied those similarities existed.

Gaye died in April 1984, leaving his children the copyrights to his music.

Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson hit catwalk for 'Zoolander 2'

PARIS (AP)—To deafening cheers, Owen Wilson and Ben Stiller stormed the Valentino catwalk during Paris Fashion Week Tuesday in a headline-grabbing stunt to announce the decision to make 'Zoolander 2.'

The two Hollywood stars reprised their roles as male models Derek Zoolander and Hansel, immortalized in the hugely popular 2001 movie, on the catwalk for Valentino's ready to wear fall/winter 2015-16 show.

The sequel will hit U.S. movie theaters on Feb. 12, 2016, Paramount Pictures said in a statement. It said Stiller and Wilson will again star in the movie, which will be written by Justin Theroux and directed by Stiller.

Stiller appeared in a dark electric blue suit-and-tie ensemble with a navy trenchcoat. Wilson, sporting shaggy long blond locks, strutted in a shiny light blue pajama print outfit with blindingly white sneakers, topped off with an eggshell blue trench coat.

It was such a surprise that the audience immediately whipped out their phones to catch the moment.



Actors Ben Stiller, left, and Owen Wilson wear creations for Valentino's fall-winter 2015-2016 ready to wear fashion collection, presented at Paris fashion week, Paris, France, Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

'Bachelor' looks forward to seeing a movie with his fiancée

NEW YORK (AP)—So you've found love on reality television that ended with a proposal. Now what?

Well, if you're the star of ABC's "The Bachelor," Chris Soules, you just want to go to the movies.

"I keep telling (fiancee) Whitney Bischoff I want to go see 'American Sniper' with her," Soules said in an interview. "I've been waiting. I just want to go somewhere besides (being) locked down in a house or on a television show."

Soules popped the question last November, but the couple had to keep their relationship a secret until Monday's finale.

It wasn't as difficult for Soules, 33, to keep who he picked to himself. He's a farmer



This image released by ABC shows Chris Soules, left, and Whitney Bischoff during the finale of the reality dating competition series "The Bachelor," which aired on Monday, March 9, 2015.

from a small town in Iowa and admittedly is "not around a lot of people."

Bischoff, 29, is a fertility nurse in Chicago and wanted to share her news. She kept herself busy to bide the time.

"When we got home literally the next business day I hit the ground running," she said. "It was important to me because there was that sense of normalcy I wanted to have back, and it was very clear very quickly that this was not going to be normal so it was hard."

Life for the couple won't be exactly ho-hum just yet.

Soules has joined the cast of the new season of "Dancing with the Stars," which premieres Monday. He's partnered with pro dancer Witney Carson,

who won last season's mirror ball trophy with actor Alfonso Ribeiro.

Soules said he wouldn't take the opportunity without Bischoff's blessing.

"If she's on board it's an opportunity of a lifetime, and it sounds like a lot of fun," he said.

Fans of the "Bachelor" franchise don't have to wait long for another installment. The next season of "The Bachelorette" begins airing on ABC in May, but with a twist.

Kaitlyn Bristowe and Britt Nilsson, who each competed for Soules' affection on "The Bachelor," will appear on the first episode to meet a group of eligible men. Those guys will then decide who goes forward as the Bachelorette.

Mexican actress Stephanie Sigman to be latest 'Bond girl'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican actress Stephanie Sigman will become the latest "Bond girl" when she appears in 007's upcoming movie "Spectre."

The official 007 website "Inside the World of James Bond"

is announcing Sigman's role in the 24th Bond movie. It says she will play a character named "Estrella" opposite Daniel Craig as Bond.

Sigman starred in the award-winning 2011 Mexican film "Miss Bala," about a beauty

pageant contestant involved with drug traffickers.

Linda Christian, the Hollywood starlet of the 1940s who was born in Mexico, was arguably the first Bond girl.

In 1954 she starred as James Bond's love interest in the tele-

vision adaptation of the novel Casino Royale.

Christian died in 2011 at the age of 87.

Nicaraguan-American actress Barbara Carrera appeared as Fatima Blush in 1984's Never Say Never Again.

US agency releases early report on Harrison Ford's plane crash

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The National Transportation Safety Board has released a summary of the plane crash that injured Harrison Ford last week in Southern California.

The report posted Tuesday on the agency's website does not, however, point to the cause of the engine failure that forced the World War II-era craft to crash-land on a golf course.

The actor's representatives said last week that his injuries weren't life-threatening and haven't re-

leased further information. Ford's son Ben has tweeted that his father is "battered" but OK.

The single-engine plane took off from Santa Monica Municipal Airport on Thursday afternoon. Soon after, Ford advised the control tower of the engine failure and requested an immediate return.

The plane began a left turn toward the airport but descended toward the golf course, striking a tree before hitting the ground about 800 feet from the runway.

Soprano Sarah Brightman works on song to perform from space

LONDON (AP)—British soprano Sarah Brightman is aiming to perform where no professional singer has ever gone before: the International Space Station.

The 54-year-old said Tuesday she is working with composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, her ex-husband, to create a song she will sing in space after she blasts off Sept. 1 in a Russian Soyuz rocket.

Brightman, known to many for her role years ago in the musical "The Phantom of the Opera" and for a duet with tenor Andrea Bocelli, told reporters she felt "overwhelmed" and excited—but not yet nervous—as she prepares for her trip.

"I would like to sing something from space," she said. "We're trying to work out all the technical details, obviously it's quite a complex thing to do."

She said she and Lloyd Webber are working to find a song that "suits the idea of space" while scientists iron out how to make the performance work, possibly with a choir or another singer on Earth.

"I'm trying to find a piece which is beautiful and simple in its message, as well as not too

complicated to sing," she said.

Brightman would not disclose the cost of the trip—reportedly 35 million pounds (\$52.8 million)—but maintained she is paying for it herself. She played the original lead in "Phantom," was an original cast member in "Cats," and has sold 30 million records worldwide.

On the journey, arranged by the private space company Space Adventures, the singer will be part of a three-person team and spend 10 days aboard the space station.

She began training in January at Star City near Moscow, spending hours every day learning

Russian, becoming familiar with all the space equipment and training in high g-force launch simulators.

"It feels like you've got an elephant on your chest, that's the only way I can explain it when you're in centrifuge," she said.

Brightman said she has wanted to go into space since she watched the first moon landing in 1969 as a 9-year-old.

"For me to have got this far and have a taste of what I felt at that time, to be part of the future, is an amazing thing," she said.



Brightman

Dad's choice of movies is inappropriate for young kids

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my father has begun to watch films with graphic sexual scenes when he gets home from work. When I ask him to please watch them on his own time, when my three younger siblings aren't in the house, he tells me that because he pays the bills he has the right to do what he wants.

Abby, not only do these graphic movies make me uncomfortable, I'm worried my siblings will begin asking questions.

UNCOMFORTABLE IN OREGON

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: If there are adult relatives who can convince your dad that what he's doing is unwise—an aunt, uncle, grandparent—talk to them about what's going on right away. If there aren't, then a trusted teacher or counselor at school should be informed because what your father is doing is extremely inappropriate. Exposing children to graphic images can give them unrealistic expectations about what sex is really all about.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have talked about becoming engaged. The subject of the wedding dress came up. She broke off a past engagement last year, and she has asked me whether it would be OK for her to use the dress she chose for the wedding that didn't happen. She says only her mother and the seamstress have seen it. She doesn't want to be out \$1,000 and says she does not associate the gown with her ex-fiance.

I feel we should try to sell the dress, although it was tailored for

her, and pick a new one. What do you think is appropriate? I don't like the idea of looking back at the wedding photos and thinking the dress was meant for another man.

FUTURE HUSBAND IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HUSBAND: Actually, the dress was meant for your fiancée and not another man. There are specialists who can redesign an existing wedding dress. However, because you have negative associations with this gown, offer to sweeten the pot by chipping in if she can't get \$1,000 for the one she has. I think the most "appropriate" thing on your wedding day should be that you are both comfortable, happy and, above all, in sync.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I don't sympathize or empathize with others. When people are sad or upset over deaths, failed relationships, etc., my reaction is annoyance at the person because I feel I'm being forced to offer an emotion I don't genuinely feel. I have experienced all of these things in my own life, but I have never shed tears about them or let them cripple me. I view these things as part of life and move on.

As I get older, it is getting harder and harder for me to fake these emotions. My wife was in tears for a couple of days because someone she knew died. I tried to pretend to empathize with her, but I found myself getting annoyed by what I thought was her overreaction. Someone she knew died; it happens to all of us. Let's move on. Is something wrong with me?

MOVING ON IN TENNESSEE

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR MOVING ON: Some people live the veneer of life; others live the hardwood. It appears you are among the former and insulated against painful emotions. However, I'm cautioning you to be patient and show respect for the feelings of others who have more emotional depth, or you may be spending a lot of time alone in the future.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Existed

4 A bit of a shock

8 Talon

12 Inventor Whitney

13 Do as you're told

14 Timber wolf

15 Crony

17 Off-dunked treat

18 Preceding

19 Actress' cameo role, maybe

21 Polltroon

24 Seek restitution

25 Okla-homa city

26 Round Table address

28 Cunning

32 Wire measures

34 Sailor

36 Baby carriage

37 Tea type

39 Rose, at first

41 Eggs (Pref.)

42 Started

44 Cue

46 Piano note

50 Greek consonants

51 Pennsylvaniana

52 Civil War general

56 Teri of "Tootsie"

57 Verifiable

58 Pooch

59 Picnic invaders

60 Palmist, e.g.

61 Green, in a sense

DOWN

1 Film director

2 "The Greatest"

3 Pavement

4 Wags

5 Sapporo sash

6 Walesa of Poland

7 Youngsters

8 Seal

9 Traditional

10 First victim

11 58-Across' comment

16 Historic time

20 Bad hairpiece

21 Too theatrical

22 Garfield's pal

23 Investigate

27 Plagiarize

29 Burr role

30 Stromboli spillage

31 Jannings of silents

33 Joins with a lead-tin alloy

35 Clear the tables

38 Conger, for one

40 Word with jacket or theater

43 Liabilities

45 Astronaut Grissom

46 Huge, in ads

47 Persia, now

48 Gossip

49 Remedy

53 Regret

54 "What's up, —?"

55 Swelled head

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aaron Eckhart, 47; Courtney B. Vance, 55; James Taylor, 67; Liza Minnelli, 69.

Happy Birthday: You'll be out to impress, putting on your best performance and making sure you leave nothing to chance. Pump up the energy levels and don't give in to anyone putting emotional demands on you or your time. You are on a mission and it's important that you make it clear that you are determined to reach your destination. Focus and forge ahead. Your numbers are 6, 15, 21, 24, 37, 45, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set the stage for a little adventure. Travel, entertainment or spending time with someone you love will lead to an emotional decision that will bring you benefits. Expand your options and make your move. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Offer suggestions and hands-on help, but don't donate money that you cannot afford to part with. Emotional blackmail will be used to try to make you feel guilty for not making a contribution. Remember, charity begins at home. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of emotional matters that can stifle your productivity or advancement. Put common sense and your best efforts behind every move you make. Romance is on the rise. Celebrate with someone special and end your day on a positive note. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't give in to someone putting demands on you. Follow the path that you find inviting, even if no one else is heading in that direction. Explore, discover and enjoy the freedom that doing your own thing can offer. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take action and follow through with your plans, and you will come out a winner. Express your thoughts and enjoy the benefits that come with making a decision and following a path that excites you. Romance is highlighted and will lead to commitment. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems at home can be expected. Take care of business quickly and you will make positive gains. Hesitation will hold you back or lead to loss. An investment or real estate deal is worth checking out. Trust your intuition. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Partnerships will pay off. Share information and contacts and you will find a way to expand your interests as well as your income. Romance is on the rise and celebrating your good fortune will end your day in a positive way. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of domestic chores. Improve your surroundings by moving things around to work more efficiently. A unique contribution you make will lead to an opportunity that can enhance your professional prospects. Negotiations will lean in your favor. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't believe everything you are told. Take the initiative and counteract any problems you face before they have a chance to grow. A change at home will brighten your day

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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and your future. An investment will raise your profile. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Work alongside others. Now is not the time to make waves or confront a situation that has the potential to make you look bad. Nurture partnerships and you will get the backing you need when the time is right. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your dedication and enthusiastic approach to whatever job you take on will improve your reputation and lead to bigger and better opportunities. A personal change you make will be noticed and appreciated by someone who means the world to you. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take to heart what others say. Go about your business and concentrate on projects you enjoy doing. Give your creative imagination the go-ahead and see what transpires. Self-improvement should be your goal. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, creative and secretive. You are caring and helpful. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/12

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DURING THE SUMMER Solution: 4 letters

GLWTIUSMIWSEKIH
NNAARHURRICANES
IOIIRAERECCOSES
FROLRMVALANMOKS
REESCOEETORGAC
UWTZNYMSLONTVVH
SOA PAOCETAEOYOO
ELM AGMSMBLZLCO
OFI BRRBOLRIUAL
DDL LEETAUDEJDA
ALCTDERYATPAOB
NIANNDBRYSCDMKO
RWUNIAAXISYHOAR
OHINLRADNELACOC
TSGLLABTFOSGIFR

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Avocado, Axis, Beach, Berries, Break, Calendar, Camp, Climate, Cycling, Figs, Heat, Hikes, Holiday, Hurricanes, July, Labor, Mangoes, Memorial, Monsoon, Outdoor, Party, Pool, School, Skateboarding, Soccer, Softball, Stargaze, Surfing, Swimsuit, Tennis, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Travel, Volleyball, Warmest, Watermelon, Wildflower
Yesterday's Answer: Vitamin D
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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 - Must be flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 03/20/2015 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2905 ext. 128.

WHATZIT Solution: Touch and go

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Kanoa Resort

Saipan

(2) GUEST SERVICES AGENT

Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Must have minimum of one or two years of training involving both on-the-job experience and informal training with experienced workers in providing quality customer and personal services. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and Chinese. Must be able to work a variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 12, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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NFL trades, retirements, and Revis Island back to NJ



In this Sept. 21, 2014, file photo, New England Patriots cornerback Darrelle Revis (24) breaks up a pass to Oakland Raiders wide receiver James Jones (89) in the end zone in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass.



NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL's business season began with a bang. Several actually: trades, retirements and, yes, even some big free agent moves.

It wasn't until mid-evening Tuesday that the first huge star took advantage of free agency: Darrelle Revis returning to the Jets for five years and \$70 million.

There were plenty of moves beforehand involving frequent All-Pro. But they were in the form trades or leaving the sport altogether.

Monster deals sent Saints tight end Jimmy Graham to Seattle and Rams quarterback Sam Bradford to Philadelphia. San Francisco linebacker Patrick Willis, plagued by sore feet, announced his retirement. So did injury-prone QB Jake Locker of the Titans, who spent just four seasons in the league.

The biggest shocker was the Graham deal, which sent Seahawks center Max Unger to New Orleans, along with a first-round draft pick. Seattle also got a fourth-rounder.

"In complementing the rest of our team, we think he's just a fantastic target that we can implement in a number of ways," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "It's pretty clear he's a big receiver, plays big, makes plays in a crowd, makes plays on top of guys. He's a very effective player in the red zone, he has been a terrific, consistent scorer, so all of that stuff,

we're just going to fit it into our offense and make him hopefully a very complementary part of it."

Not quite so stunning but certainly newsworthy was St. Louis sending Bradford, the top overall draft pick in 2010, to the Eagles for quarterback Nick Foles.

The injury-prone Bradford barely has played the past two years because of a torn ACL. Foles also comes off an injury-shortened season (collarbone).

"Sam was a leader on our team in the locker room and on the field," Rams coach Jeff Fisher said. "He was a great teammate who was dealt some adversity but handled it all with grace and dignity."

Foles is the latest starter to depart Philadelphia. He joins two-time All-Pro running back LeSean McCoy, now in Buffalo, and Pro Bowl wide receiver Jeremy Maclin, headed for Kansas City, in going elsewhere.

Philadelphia also added Seahawks starting cornerback Byron Maxwell as a free agent with a six-year deal. And Seattle brought in cornerback Cary Williams, formerly of the Eagles and a 2012 Super Bowl winner with the Ravens.

Several other trades became official Tuesday.

Baltimore dealt nose tackle Haloti Ngata to Detroit, which is about to lose All-Pro defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh in free agency. Ngata, 31 and a five-time Pro Bowler, is due \$8.5 million next season and has a \$16 million salary cap figure.

The Bills confirmed acquiring McCoy for linebacker Kiko Alonso; McCoy also signed a contract extension for \$40 million over five years.

The Jets also confirmed a previously agreed upon trade, getting receiver Brandon Marshall from Chicago for a fifth-round draft pick. They released WR-KR Percy Harvin, whom they acquired last season from Seattle.

But their big move was returning Revis Island to the Meadowlands.

Revis becomes one of the highest-paid cornerbacks in NFL history, with \$39 million fully guaranteed. He'll make \$33 million in the first two years, and \$48 million in the first three.

"I want to thank the Pats and Pats Nation for an unbelievable year," Revis wrote on Twitter. "NEW YORK I'm coming home. (has)revisisland (hash)jetnation."

Five-time All-Pro Willis, the heart of San Francisco's defense for eight seasons, called it quits. The 2007 Defensive Rookie of the Year is leaving because of recurring toe and feet injuries.

"In my head, I'm already a Hall of Famer," Willis said. "I am leaving this with closure, saying that I am happy today, more happy today than I was the day I was drafted. That says something to me."

Locker, the eighth overall draft pick in 2011, noted he has no "burning desire" to keep playing.

"I realize this decision is surprising to many, but I know in my

heart that it is the right decision," he said, "and I look forward to spending more time with my family and pursuing other interests."

Also Tuesday:

-Carolina released DeAngelo Williams, its career rushing leader.

■ Frank Gore, the 49ers' career rushing leader, joined the Colts as a free agent. But the 49ers added WR Torrey Smith.

■ Linebacker A.J. Hawk, who grew up in Ohio and attended Ohio State, agreed to terms with Cincinnati on a two-year deal. Hawk spent his first nine seasons in Green Bay.

■ Jacksonville, with lots of salary cap room, grabbed tight end Julius Thomas away from Denver among a slew of moves. The Jaguars agreed to deals with defensive end Jared Odrick, right tackle Jeremy Parnell, cornerback Davon House, linebacker Dan Skuta and safety Sergio Brown. Thomas agreed on a five-year deal worth \$46 million, with \$24 million guaranteed.

■ Arizona got probably the best run blocker in this year's group, guard Mike Iupati, who agreed on a five-year, \$40 million contract with \$22.5 million guaranteed. The Cardinals also re-signed linebacker LaMarr Woodley.

■ Atlanta fortified the middle of new coach Dan Quinn's defense by signing free-agent linebackers Brooks Reed and Justin Durant.

■ Oakland added LB Malcolm Smith, the 2014 Super Bowl MVP with Seattle, and RB Roy Helu.

SIDEBAR

Sources: Peterson meets with Vikings owners

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Adrian Peterson and the Minnesota Vikings are still working on their relationship.

Three people with knowledge of the visit, speaking Tuesday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, confirmed that Peterson met Monday with Vikings owners Zygi and Mark Wilf and general manager Rick Spielman in the New York area.

That was a sequel of sorts to a trip that Spielman and coach Mike Zimmer took last Wednesday to Peterson's home outside of Houston, a four-hour meeting that by all accounts was cordial but still left Peterson with some concerns about the organization.

"We had a great dialogue, and they were able to understand where I was coming from and concerns my family and I still have," Peterson said that day. "We respect each other, and hopefully the situation can pan out so that everyone involved is content."

News of the latest meeting was first reported by USA Today.

The Vikings have repeatedly said they want Peterson back. Still, for a soon-to-be-30-year-old running back, his \$12.75 million salary for 2015 is a lot despite his decorated career featuring six Pro Bowl selections and a 2,097-yard season in 2012.

There's no guaranteed money left on his contract, giving Peterson reason to proceed deliberately about his future.

The child abuse case involving injuries to Peterson's 4-year-old son that led to an NFL suspension under the personal conduct policy has been resolved, but Peterson has expressed uneasiness about returning to Minnesota. In an interview with ESPN last month, he called the collaboration between the Vikings and the NFL to place him on paid leave the week after he was indicted in Texas "an ambush."

Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Peterson until at least April 15, but the league arbitrator's denial of Peterson's appeal was rebuked by the federal judge who heard a petition from the NFL Players Association. The league appealed to a higher court but returned Peterson to the special exempt list he spent much of last season on.

Tuesday was the day NFL teams could begin trading players, the dawn of the new league year that also signaled the start of free agency. Regardless of whether or not Peterson were to remain on the roster for 2015, the Vikings were unlikely to spend much money on a veteran running back on the open market. They've got Jerick McKinnon, their leading rusher last season, and a deep draft pool at the position.

The biggest move the Vikings made Tuesday was securing quarterback Teddy Bridgewater's backup, following their agreement to trade Matt Cassel to Buffalo. The Vikings agreed to terms with Shaun Hill on a two-year contract worth as much \$6.5 million, according to a person with knowledge of the agreement who requested anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

The 35-year-old Hill entered the NFL as an undrafted rookie with the Vikings in 2002. He spent three seasons in San Francisco and four in Detroit before starting eight games last season in place of the injured Sam Bradford in St. Louis. Hill completed 63.3 percent of his passes for 1,657 yards, eight touchdowns and seven interceptions in 2014.

The Vikings also reached agreements with backup defensive tackle Tom Johnson (three years) and backup guard Joe Berger (two years), according to their agents, and announced the re-signing of running back Matt Asiata to a one-year deal. Another restricted free agent, backup offensive tackle Mike Harris, was tendered a qualifying offer to give the Vikings the opportunity to match a contract with another club.

Asiata started nine games last season with Peterson out and finished with 570 yards and nine touchdowns, tied for third-most in the league. Johnson, whose deal included \$3 million guaranteed and is worth as much as \$7 million, was second on the team last year with 6 1/2 sacks. The other unrestricted free agent the Vikings were expected to re-sign was veteran long snapper Cullen Loeffler.

Lakers snap 5-game skid with 93-85 win over Pistons



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jordan Hill led seven Lakers in double figures with 16 points, and Los Angeles beat the Detroit Pistons 93-85 on Tuesday night to snap a five-game losing streak.

The injury-riddled Lakers (17-46) beat the Pistons for the 11th time in the last 12 meetings behind 46 points in the paint and a 46-41 rebounding edge, but were officially eliminated from playoff contention before their game ended when New Orleans beat Brooklyn.

Greg Monroe had 24 points and nine rebounds for the Pistons, but missed a pair of critical free throws with 1:09 remaining and Detroit trailing by three. Andre Drummond had 21 rebounds along with 14 points, but couldn't prevent Detroit's seventh straight loss.

The Pistons trailed by as many as nine before slicing the deficit to 78-74 with a fast-break dunk by Monroe and a 3-pointer by Kentavious Caldwell-Pope with 5:55 remaining. They got as close as 85-82 on a fast-break layup by former Laker Jodie Meeks with 1:42 left. But Hill helped put it away with a 20-footer in the final minute and Jeremy Lin added four free throws.

Caldwell-Pope hit a 3-pointer with 5.3 seconds left in the half to give the Pistons a 50-49 lead at intermission. But they missed their first eight shots of the third as the Lakers went on an 8-0 run that Detroit's Tayshaun Prince ended on a driving layup with 5:43 left in the quarter.

Cavaliers 127, Mavericks 94

In Dallas, even without his trademark headband, LeBron James had 27 points and took over sole possession of the Cavaliers' career assists record as Cleveland beat the Dallas Mavericks.

James was one of four players with more than 20 points for the Central Division-leading Cavaliers, who have won 12 of their last 13 games against Western Conference opponents and broke a 14-game losing streak in Texas.

Kyrie Irving scored 22 points, while Kevin Love had 21 points and 14 rebounds. J.R. Smith also scored 21 points and Timofey Mozgov, the other starter, had 17.

Chandler Parsons led Dallas with 18 points, while Monta Ellis had 17 and Amare Stoudemire 15. Dirk Nowitzki scored 13 points on only 3-of-10 shooting.

Spurs 117, Raptors 107

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 24 points, 11 rebounds and matched a career high with five steals, as San Antonio withstood a second-half



AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Jeremy Lin, left, pulls in an offensive rebound over Detroit Pistons' Anthony Tolliver during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in Los Angeles.

letdown to beat Toronto for its sixth straight victory.

Tony Parker added 23 points and nine assists, and Danny Green was 5 for 6 on 3-pointers in scoring 19 points for San Antonio.

Toronto lost its fourth straight despite 32 points from Kyle Lowry and 21 for DeMar DeRozan. Amir Johnson had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Tim Duncan made the game's first basket on a follow of his own blocked shot 19 seconds in, after failing to make a field goal for the first time in his career in San Antonio's previous game. He finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds in 36 minutes before leaving with about a minute remaining, clutching his elbow after teammate Tiago Splitter fell into him under the basket.

Pacers 118, Magic 86

In Indianapolis, reserve Rodney Stuckey had 34 points, six rebounds and seven assists, as Indiana beat Orlando for its sixth straight victory.

Damjan Rudez scored 17 points, and Luis Scola added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the surging Pacers (29-34), who moved into sole possession of seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

Tobias Harris had 22 points and six rebounds, and Elfrid Payton finished with 14 points for the Magic, who have lost five of seven games.

Stuckey made two of his career-best six 3-pointers in an 18-0 run in the first half. Indiana used a 9-3 run in the fourth quarter to pull away, with Solo-

mon Hill's two-handed dunk to give the Pacers a 93-73 lead with 9:52 remaining.

Pelicans 111, Nets 91

In New York, Alexis Ajinca and Quincy Pondexter each

scored 17 points as New Orleans moved within percentage points of eighth place in the Western Conference by beating Brooklyn.

Omer Asik had 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans in

their third straight victory. Anthony Davis scored 15 points, a night after tying his career high with 43 in a win at Milwaukee.

Brook Lopez had 15 points and nine rebounds for the Nets, who broke to an early double-

digit lead before losing their fourth straight.

Ajinca had 11 points during a four-minute stretch of the second quarter as the Pelicans took a 55-46 lead into halftime. They are 2 percentage points behind Oklahoma City for the West's final playoff spot.

Jazz 87, Knicks 82

In Salt Lake City, Derrick Favors had 29 points and 12 rebounds, as Utah beat New York to equal a season high with its third straight victory.

Both teams struggled to score as the Jazz were without leading scorer Gordon Hayward (back) and the Knicks have been injury-plagued all season. New York missed Tim Hardaway Jr. (back) for the second consecutive game.

Reserve Rodney Hood scored 17 points for the Jazz, while Rudy Gobert added 10 points, 14 rebounds, four blocks and three steals. Hood and Favors carried the offensive load in the fourth after the Knicks took a two-point lead.

Alexey Shved scored 21 points and had a career-high 10 rebounds for the Knicks. Andrea Bargnani finished with 20 points.

Whiteside suspended 1 game by NBA for throwing elbow

MIAMI—The NBA suspended Miami Heat centre Hassan Whiteside for one game without pay for blindsiding Boston Celtics center Kelly Olynyk in their game on Monday night.

The league made the announcement on Tuesday. Whiteside, who reached out to Olynyk and apologized, will not play Wednesday night when the Heat play host to the Brooklyn Nets—one of the teams they're battling with for an Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Whiteside also apologized to fans and his teammates.

"I feel like I let them down,"

Whiteside said Tuesday, before the league announced its expected decision. "It can't happen again. We're in a playoff hunt. It was just a terrible decision on my part."

Whiteside elbowed Olynyk in the back of the neck in the third quarter of Boston's 100-90 win over Miami. Whiteside was ejected for the second time in his last four games, and teammates—including Heat star Dwyane Wade—made no effort to hide their disappointment with him afterward.

"Hassan is still a family member, even after last night," Heat

coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It's another learning opportunity. We are going to correct it with him. He wants to and he knows that we need him. He needs to be accountable to every other player and staff member in the locker room. He knows how important he is to our play."

The 25-year-old Whiteside is averaging 10.9 points and 9.8 rebounds in 35 games this season for the Heat.

"We're all ready to move forward in a positive way," Spoelstra said. "He's not on an island. We're not turning our back on him."

Whiteside was ejected against Phoenix earlier this month after an altercation with Suns centre Alex Len. The play where he was ejected Monday started when he got upset over a non-call on one of his shots, and he took his frustration out on Olynyk.

"Hassan has a great heart," Spoelstra said. "He's a very competitive person. Now it's about channeling that in the right way. ... When you're a player on a team that's competing for something, your actions impact everybody else in the locker room."

Derrick Rose thinks he'll play this season, not sure when

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose said Monday he thinks he will be back this season after last month's knee surgery, but he isn't putting a firm timetable on his return.

Meeting with the media for the first time since undergoing surgery Feb. 27 to repair the torn medial meniscus in his right knee, Rose said his return this season is "the plan, so whenever I feel right, that's when I'm going to step back."

After the surgery, the Bulls put a timetable of four-to-six

weeks on Rose's return.

"I feel good. I'm in a positive place right now," Rose said. "Just trying to keep it positive and get the most out of these days."

Rose hasn't played since Feb. 23 against the Milwaukee Bucks, when he went 1 for 13 in 33 minutes. The next night, the Bulls announced that he would undergo his latest knee surgery.

Rose missed all of the 2012-13 season after tearing his left ACL during the first round of the 2012 playoffs, and played only 10 games last season after

initially tearing the meniscus in his right knee.

The former MVP isn't sure when this injury happened. He speculated that he might have been playing on it for a month and he remembered he felt something during Chicago's game in Golden State on Jan. 27.

"That could have been a sign telling me that something was wrong, and that was a month and two weeks ago," Rose said. "So, who knows when it happened? It could have happened that game, the previous game, who knows?"

Rose spent time on the United Center floor shooting flat-footed jumpers Monday before the Bulls played Memphis, and Chicago coach Tom Thibodeau said he is "right on schedule" in his latest return.

"He has been through a lot and has to keep going," Thibodeau said. "There's not much you can do, other than put everything you have into each and every day. His focus has to be on the rehab."

The Bulls were also without Jimmy Butler (left elbow) and Taj Gibson (left ankle).

An ocean away, Pacquiao's trainer makes some noise from afar

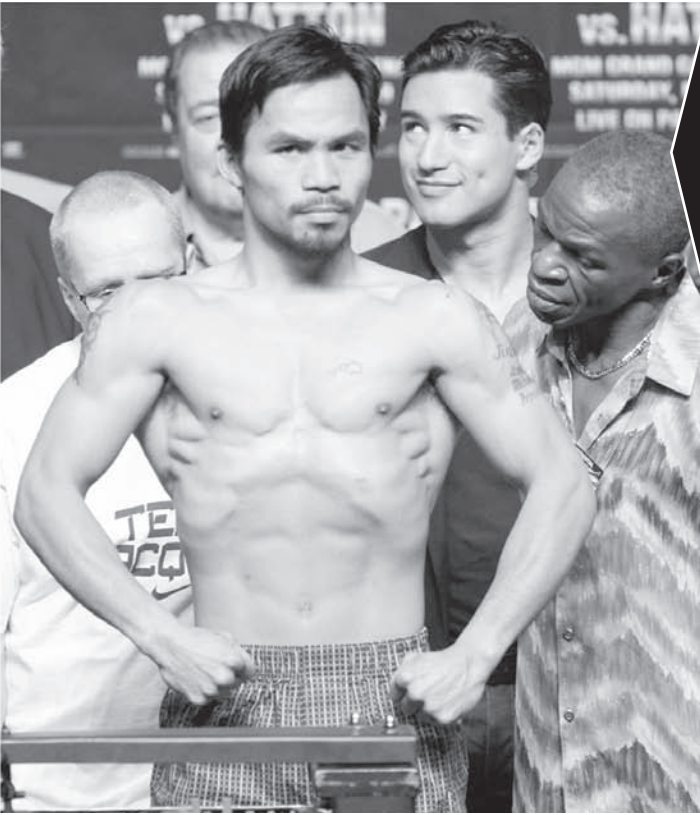
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Armed guards patrolling the gym where Manny Pacquiao trains. Stealthy attempts to disrupt Pacquiao's sparring. And a bit of trash talking just to spice things up two months before the big fight.

Freddie Roach may be in Macau for a title fight involving China's Zou Shiming, but he's making plenty of noise before his return to Los Angeles on Sunday to train Pacquiao for his fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. The talk is as old school as Roach, who seems to be giving early notice to the Mayweather camp that the buildup to the fight will be as intense as the bout itself.

"Floyd is so disrespectful," Roach said by phone from China. "Manny is the perfect role model for this fight and Mayweather is not. I told Manny we've got to beat him for the whole world. There's no way we can't win this fight."

Forgive Roach if he's early with the talk, but he's just warming up. He has to, because he'll carry the dual role of trainer and chief provocateur for Pacquiao, who tends to shy away from making any inflammatory comments about fighters he'll meet in the ring.

There's two more months of this to come. Reality television couldn't begin to even think of the plot twists that will take place be-



AP
In this combination of file photos, Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, prepares to spar at a gym in east London on May 22, 2009, and Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, weighs in for the junior welterweight boxing match against British boxer Ricky Hatton, May 1, 2009, in Las Vegas.

tween the Hollywood gym where Pacquiao trains and The Money Team's digs in Las Vegas.

Leave it to Roach, widely acknowledged as the best trainer in the sport, to offer up a few tantalizing morsels to keep the hype going.

He doesn't much care for Mayweather, and believes that at age 38 he's slowing down. He thinks Mayweather might even be lured by the magnitude of the

someone is buying the bikes or the parts. That is the guy we need to find and put out of business. The thieves will stop stealing only when the buyer stops buying," Bateman said.

Saipan Cyclers CNMI members also expressed concerns about the stolen bikes cases and they said they have to sit down and find ways how to prevent or lessen these unfortunate incidents.

goal each.

MP United matched Tan Holdings 1's 4-0 mark and the former won the tiebreak for first place in the division with its higher goal difference 33-31.

Tan Holdings 1 11, Kanoa 0

Tan Holdings maintained its perfect record after crushing Kanoa FC (0-0-4) in the second game last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Anthony Fruit and Louie Calayag registered three goals apiece for Tan Holdings 1, Albert Bergancia contributed two, and Mark Esalan, Thaiphi Austria, and Rico Reyes tallied one each.

Paire 5, Tan Holdings 2 1

In the first game last Friday, Paire coasted past Tan Holdings 2.

Paire (2-0-2) got its offensive game going in the second half to hand Tan Holdings 2 its fourth loss in as many games. Paire made only one goal in the first half off Harry Huh's shot before

fight into doing things that will get him in trouble.

"Floyd's legs don't move like they once did," Roach told The Associated Press. "He's very clever but the fight is so big he may feel like he has to take a risk and exchange with us. If he does that, that's the best thing in the world for Manny in my mind."

And if the fight comes down to cornermen, Roach believes Mayweather will be in real trouble if he's listening to his father, Floyd Sr., who took over as his son's trainer from uncle Roger

Mayweather last year.

"Going against Floyd Sr. is a little disappointing," Roach said. "He just isn't very good, especially during the fight itself. One of our advantages is having him in the other corner."

The two fighters will get together next Wednesday for the only time before fight week to promote a bout that really doesn't need much promoting. Expect Floyd Sr. to come up with a poem predicting his son's success, and expect Roach to elevate the level of trash talk even

more.

Big fights are nothing new to either boxer, but already this one is proving different. The buildup to the actual announcement of the fight created hysteria in boxing circles, and the buzz about the biggest fight in years shows no sign of abating.

To prepare for the frenzy, Roach hired seven guards for his Wild Card gym in Hollywood, where in the past people milled about in the parking lot hoping to get a glimpse of Pacquiao and anyone with even a

In the men's 3.0 doubles finals, the father-and-son pair of Eric and Joshua Abran swept the PIC tandem of Dennis Tababa and Glenn Policare, 6-2, 6-3.

In the women's 3.0 doubles title match, Sato and Eda cruised to a 6-0 win in the opening set and completed their easy

knocked in all four goals for Matansa. She delivered three of them in the first half and completed her outstanding performance with another goal in the closing minutes of the match.

Princess Alcantara put Kanoa (0-0-4) in the board with her goal in the second half.

breaking the game wide open in the second after drawing a pair of goals from Dai Podziewski and one each from Cole Chambers and Logan Mister. John Guiller Canape drilled the only goal for Tan Holdings 2.

GIRLS U15 Shirley's 2, Paire 1

Shirley's nipped Paire last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch to stay at the top of the team standings in the girls U15 division.

Shirley's now has 3-1-0 mark, prevailing against Matansa (3-1-0) in the tiebreak with its more goals scored, 11-8.

Diana Maniacop added two goals to Shirley's total after scoring in the 40th and 46th minute of their game against Paire (1-0-3). Paire avoided a shutout after getting a goal from Guinevere Borja in the 66th minute.

Matansa 4, Kanoa 1

Matansa matched Shirley's third win after outclassing Kanoa.

Angel Sally was unstoppable in last weekend's match, as she

victory against Vickie Izuka and Mayling Colombo after the latter retired with the winning pair ahead, 4-1.

Meanwhile, the final week of the PIC tournament will be played this weekend with players competing in the junior doubles and adults singles events.

BOYS U18 Tan Holdings 5, Paire 1

Tan Holdings still leads the division following a victory against Paire last Saturday at the Oleai pitch.

Sean Perez anchored the win with his three straight goals, while Yoshi Mafnas registered the other goal for Tan Holdings, which got an own goal off a miscue from Paire's J.C. Piring. Incidentally, Piring was also the only player to hit the board for Paire (0-0-3).

Tan Holdings remained unbeaten in three games to lead MP United (2-0-1).

MP United 3, Matansa 1

MP United kept Tan Holdings within striking distance after beating Matansa in the other division match last weekend.

Three different players scored for MP United with Tenorio drawing first blood in the 34th minute and Enrico del Rosario and Dakota Hall earning the last two in the 76th and 81st, respectively. Matansa (1-0-2) got its lone goal from Evan Belcher.

RIDERS

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ager said these incidents are very alarming, especially now that Saipan is gearing up for the Tagaman Triathlon and XTERRA Saipan Championship, which will not only bring local bikers together, but also lure several off-island athletes.

"Sadly, it looks like someone is targeting bikes. That means

MPU

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Dylan Cho, Grafton Howard, and Rintaro Miyawaki scored one goal apiece in MP United's shutout of Paire.

In the other co-ed U12 division match, Tan Holdings finally entered the win column after easing past Matansa FC, 4-1.

Taka Borja starred in the win, as he scored a hat-trick with his three goals recorded in succession in the second half. Christian Puri tallied the other goal for Tan Holdings, while Justin Charles Achas scored the lone goal for Matansa.

BOYS U15 MP United 9, Matansa 0

MP United stretched its winning run to four after whipping Matansa (2-0-2) last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

Sunjoon Tenorio led MP United's demolition of Matansa with his hat-trick, while Edwin Kim and Oliver Lee chipped in two apiece. Go Sekiguchi and Grant Eichenberger added one

remote connection to the fighter could usually manage to get inside for workouts.

"With guns," Roach said, "so people respect them."

That's not the only change in the Pacquiao camp for the fight that will almost surely define his career.

Instead of doing much of his early training in the Philippines, Pacquiao will spend his entire camp in Southern California. He'll spar less, likely 90 to 95 rounds instead of the usual 150, because Roach wants to keep his legs fresh at age 36.

First, though, he'll make a music video to go with a new song the erstwhile singer has recorded for his walk into the ring.

"Manny asked if he could do it and I said OK," Roach said. "I don't see it as a distraction because his work ethic is so great."

Roach, who played a big part in getting the fight made by bringing promoter Bob Arum and CBS chairman Les Moonves together for talks, said he and Pacquiao have a higher calling than just winning a fight.

"Manny will be performing a public service for boxing when he beats Floyd," Roach said.

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	26	.594	—
Boston	26	36	.419	11
Brooklyn	25	37	.403	12
Philadelphia	14	49	.222	23½
New York	12	51	.190	25½
Southeast Division				
x-Atlanta	50	13	.794	—
Washington	36	28	.563	14½
Charlotte	28	34	.452	21½
Miami	28	35	.444	22
Orlando	21	44	.323	30
Central Division				
Cleveland	41	25	.621	—
Chicago	39	26	.600	1½
Milwaukee	33	30	.524	6½
Indiana	29	34	.460	10½
Detroit	23	40	.365	16½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	45	18	.714	—
Houston	43	20	.683	2
San Antonio	40	23	.635	5
Dallas	41	25	.621	5½
New Orleans	36	29	.554	10
Northwest Division				
Portland	41	20	.672	—
Oklahoma City	35	28	.556	7
Utah	27	36	.429	15
Denver	23	41	.359	19½
Minnesota	14	48	.226	27½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	50	12	.806	—
L.A. Clippers	41	23	.641	10
Phoenix	33	32	.508	18½
Sacramento	21	41	.339	29
L.A. Lakers	17	46	.270	33½
x-clinched playoff spot				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



Daniel, Isaiah keep top spot

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Daniel and Isaiah are still tied for the lead in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League following their separate wins last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Isaiah improved to a 3-0 record after downing Ezekiel in the first game, 68-59, while Daniel earned the same perfect mark following a 76-57 triumph over Samuel in the second match of the night.

Daniel and Isaiah lead Gideon (2-1), Caleb (2-1), Ezekiel (1-2), Joshua (1-2), Samuel (0-3), and Jeremiah (0-3).

Both Daniel and Isaiah went to business in the second half after a so-so performance in the first frame to keep their immaculate slates.

In the first game, the towering Fred Fatialofa used his height advantage against the much smaller Ezekiel front-

liners to dominate the paint and scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half. Fatialofa also drew support from Marlo Ibanez and Walter Brillo, who chipped in 9 and 8 markers in the second half, which started with Ezekiel holding a precarious 28-27 lead.

Ezekiel hung on to the slim advantage at the break after getting 8 points from Roy Alcantara and at least two baskets each from four other players. Alcantara then faded away in the second half as he was held to two free

throws, while only Travis Eubanks and Vhoi Francia nailed more than two field goals for Ezekiel, allowing Isaiah to grab the driver's seat en route to the 9-point win.

In the second game, Daniel also fought back in the second half after facing a 32-35 half-time deficit, thanks to Angelo Hernaez's 13 points in the final 20 minutes of play.

Reli Del Rio stepped up too in the second half, adding 8, as he and Hernaez nearly matched the total output out Samuel in the second half, 21-22. Andrew Palino, Mark Robles, and Alain Nunez contributed 6 points apiece in the second half turnaround, while

Chris Joson scored 4.

Jerome Reyes was the lone Samuel player to hit more than two baskets in their second-half meltdown, knocking in three field goals. Ronnie Guevarra, who finished the half with 10 points, was limited to 4 in the second frame, failing to put Samuel in the win column after three games.

Meanwhile, Daniel will shoot for win No. 4 when it takes on Joshua tomorrow at 6:30pm. In the second game, Jeremiah will try to end its three-game slide when it faces Ezekiel at 8pm.

First Game

Isaiah 68 – Fatialofa 17, Brillo 13, Estanislao 12, Ibanez 9, Cortez 7, De Leon 4, Gragrasin 3, Dalusung 3, Arroyo 2.

Ezekiel 59 – Eubanks 13, Alcantara 10, Surima 10, Irog 8, Francia 7, Rebong 6, Conti 5.

Scoring by halves: 27-28, 68-59.

Second Game

Daniel 76 – Hernaez 24, Del Rio 15, Palino 13, Nunez 9, Robles 6, Pablo 4, Joson 4.

Samuel 57 – Guevarra 14, Reyes 13, Belgado 6, Bordon 6, Calibo 6, Ponce 4, Badal 4, De Luna 2, Abragan 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-35, 76-57.

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REPORTER
Daniel's Dindo Pablo pulls up for a shot against Samuel's Eric Abragan, while Jessie Pacia, left, stands by for help defense during the second half of their game in the Genesis Cup last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

'The Clinch' eyes win No. 2 in PXC

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Vince "The Clinch" Masga will try to prove that his Pacific X-treme Combat debut win was no fluke when he faces Guam's Scotty "Da Slaya" Eclavea in Friday's PXC 47 at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao.

Masga, who debuted at the PXC with a unanimous decision win over McKlane Alfred in PXC 45 last year, is hoping to have an early birthday present to himself when he faces Eclavea. He will turn 21 on March 19.

The Masga-Eclavea is one of the seven undercard bouts including Frank "The Crank" Camacho (15-2-0, with 11 wins by knockout) going up against Japan's Yusuke Kasuya (8-1-2, with 1 KO).

The bout between Sweden's Zebastian Kadestam (6-1-0, with 4 KOs) and Han Seul Kim (4-2-0, with 2 KOs) of South Korea is the main headliner.

Masga, who left with his team that include Trench Tech Gym fight promoter Cuki Alvarez last Tuesday, said that it has been a brutal eight weeks of training camp where he needed less than a month to lose 30 pounds in his weight.

"We've been continuously training with the guys

at Trench Tech but the last two months have been brutal where I train three to four times a day," said Masga (5-1, with 3 wins by submission).

He added that he weighed 169 lbs when they started training camp and in less than a month he lost 30 lbs. "I used to fight in the 145-155 weight division but this time I'm targeting 125 at flyweight."

Masga said that he knows that Eclavea is a good submission fighter as his opponent is a Brazilian jiu-jitsu brown belt. "He is a good grappler but in his last fight he beat Mike Sanchez with his stand-up skills. So, I have to also be careful with that"

Alvarez said that they even put Masga inside the "shark tank" where he went up against five fighters one at a time.

"Whether he wants the fight standing up or on the ground, I've trained hard and I'm ready for this. I believe in my team and I will just follow our fight plan and go for the win," said Masga.

"I feel great, confident, and ready for this fight. I feel that I'm in the best shape of my life. I'll just let my skills do the talking," added Masga, who also thanked his sponsors Trench Tech, 670 Rocksteady Shop, Get Fit CNMI, and The Shack Saipan.



Sun Palace badminton kicks off

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Two young pairs opened up their respective title campaigns with two wins as the annual Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition kicked off its third season last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Community Badminton Club's Deether Edralin and Jordan Pangilinan and the Saipan Badminton Club pair of Jongmin Lee and Youngson Yu are the likely title favorites after beating two other pairs in the men's doubles A division.

Edralin and Pangilinan grind-



ed out a 21-20, 21-20 win over Glen Bluutjens and new doubles partner Oh Im Bog last Friday then followed it up with a 21-20, 21-15 decision against Andreau Galvez and Zeke Macario.

Lee and Yu also defeated Bluutjens and Oh, 21-13, 21-20, on Saturday and Galvez and Macario, 21-7, 21-18, on Sunday.

Bluutjens won last year's men's doubles crown with Sam Jones as his partner.

Oh and Lee teamed up in men's doubles B where they lead

Group 1 after victories over Gary Bandoja and Edwin Maratas, 21-9, 21-11, and Celso Agui and Ariel Mariano, 21-16, 21-20.

In women's doubles B, SBC's Julie Lee and Rowena Sison ended Lucelle Lampera and Marylyn Montano's two straight wins to pose a threat on the Golden Racquet pair's title drive.

Lee and Sison scored a 21-18, 21-13 win over Lampera and Montano—who made short work of Taga Badminton Club's



Deether Edralin, left, watches the direction of his drop shot as Glen Bluutjens tries to return it in their men's doubles A match in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition, which kicked off its third season last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Rose Lazaro and Gigi Zapanta, 21-13, 21-8, and Lani Santos and Merlie Tolentino, 21-7, 21-8.

Galvez bounced back in the men's singles with consecutive victories against Pangilinan, 21-19, 21-19, and Edralin, 21-14, 21-15.

Newbies Jeremi Montenejo, Miki Ya, and Daniel Kim are leading their respective groups in the men's C division after posting two wins

Montenejo dispatched John Costales, 21-13, 21-15, and Tae Ho Kim, 21-10, 21-15; Ya downed Costales, 21-15, 21-14, and Jerico Montenejo, 21-12, 21-6; while Daniel Kim defeated Raphael Zapanta, 21-11, 21-11, and Owen Ou, 21-10, 21-19.

In other Sunday results, Edralin outlasted Shirley's Badminton Club's Macoi Aguda, 11-21, 21-16, 21-18, in the men's singles A; Vilma Reyes of Shirley's downed Lazaro, 21-18, 21-9, in the women's singles C.

Taga's Tolentino and Santos won by default against Havika Farro and Nicole Malasarte in the women's doubles B, while Shirley Kim and Loida Ito completed a 21-16, 21-20 decision over the CBC pair.

In singles matches, reigning men's C champion A.J. Ortega beat Raphael Zapanta, 21-17, 21-19; Tolentino downed Taga teammate Christy Villafior, 21-18, 21-9, in women's B; Irish Pagarao defeated Santos, 21-14, 21-14; Hannah Choi tripped Janelle Pangilinan, 21-14, 21-17, in women's A; and in men's A, Jordan Pangilinan trounced Bluutjens, 21-18, 21-17.



Riders alarmed over rash of bike thefts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pedestrians and motorists are not the only cause of concern for Saipan bikers nowadays, the thieves too.

Members of the biking community are alarmed over several stolen bike incidents that have been reported just as Saipan is about to host two of the biggest races on the island.

Samson Tan, who competed in both XTERRA and Tagaman races last year, was the most recent one to lose his bike to thieves. His Cannondale bike, Giant Boulder MTB, a pair of WTB wheel set, and other personal belongings were stolen in his home in Garapan last week. Tan posted in his FB account the picture of one of the bikes that was stolen and asked the community's help for information that may lead to the recovery of the bikes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This bike and other accessories are for sale and were posted on Samson Tan's Facebook page but they were stolen from his Garapan home early last month.

The burglary incident was already reported to the Department of Public Safety. DPS, through its public information officer Travis Hurst, said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* that the incident and other reported stolen bikes cases are under investigation.

Besides Tan, a couple also lost three bikes parked at Pacific Islands Club Saipan last month. Two were later recovered, but some parts of the bikes are still missing. Late last month, a man lost his wheels in Garapan, as the thief failed to break his bike chain, according to MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, who is also a member of the island's biking community. Bateman added a resident of Koblerville nearly lost his bikes early last month.

"They broke into his house but he had the bikes stored inside with a big boat chain and even though they sawed on the chain they couldn't get through it so they stole his tools, etc.," Bateman said.

The MVA marketing man-

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MPU leads co-ed U12, boys U15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United retained the No. 1 spot in the co-ed U12 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League following a 3-0 victory over Paire Football Club last Saturday



at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United notched its third win in as many games to lead Matansa (1-1-1 win/draw/loss), Tan Holdings (1-1-2), Paire (1-0-2), and Kanoa (0-2-1).

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club's Angel Sally dribbles past her Kanoa FC defender during the second half of their girls U15 division game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior players Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy swept their foes to bag the women's Open doubles crown in the 15th PIC Tennis Championships last weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Rastguiy and Lopez clinched the division championship after a 6-3, 6-4 win over the mother-and-daughter tandem of Eun Kyoung and Carol Lee last Sunday. Last Saturday, Lee and Rastguiy also took only two sets to beat Marivic Rosario and Tisha Ferrer, 6-0, 6-3, and advanced to the finals against the Lees. Carol and Eun Young made it to the finals after easing past the junior players Tania Tan and Malika Miyawaki, 6-0, 6-1.

Meanwhile, the pairs of Luke Beling and Peter Loken, Rai Rai and Dong Min Lee, Joshua and Eric Abragan, and Chiharu Sato and Sakiko Eda were the other doubles winners in Week 1 of

Lopez, Rastguiy prevail

the annual tournament.

Loken and Beling earned the men's open doubles title after outclassing Jeff Race and Tommy Choi in last Sunday's finale, 6-2, 7-5. The eventual champions barged into the title match after waltzing past Bob-



by Cruz and Rai in the semifinals of the upper bracket, 6-2, 6-4. In the lower bracket semis, Race and Choi had a tougher time, eking out a 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) victory against the junior pair of Luther Lizama and Colin Ramsey.

Rai also played in the men's

40-and-above doubles and teamed up with Dong Min Lee in downing Donn Dunlop and Nicky Nichols in last Sunday's finals, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3. The Rai and Lee duo marched into the championship game following

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mikayla Lopez makes a volley near the net, while Negahr Rastguiy looks on during their women's open doubles division title match against mother and daughter Eun Kyoung and Carol Lee in the PIC tournament last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.